

Atkins plan to give Ulster more power

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Proposals to return some political responsibilities to Northern Ireland are to be outlined in Parliament today by Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, as MPs are asked to authorize the continuation of direct rule in the province for another year.

Mr Atkins's ideas have been kept secret because in the past new political initiatives from Westminster have been damaged by heavy criticism even before being announced. But he has rejected any idea of substantially increasing the powers of the district councils. Nor are fresh elections to a new provincial assembly contemplated in the near future.

Still, Mr Atkins remains wedded to the principle of devolving political power and to pursuing discussions with Northern Ireland political parties on how to achieve that, in spite of the opposition of the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party.

Mr Atkins is convinced of the need for political development in Ulster, and for the politically isolated in helping run the province's affairs, such as an advisory council of politicians.

Today's debate is the one occasion in the parliamentary year at Westminster for a full discussion of Northern Ireland's political future. This time there is a certain eagerness, brought on by uncertainty among MPs, on either side of the House, about how the views of the Labour Party are changing.

In spite of Mr Michael Foot's assurance yesterday that unification of Ireland could only come by consent, there are signs that other influential figures on the Labour side may be changing their position.

In particular, Mr James Callaghan, the former prime minister, has been telling friends at Westminster that he plans a major intervention in today's debate. He is said to have suggested that the time has come for a fresh look at the Government's traditional guarantee that there can be no change in the constitutional position of Northern Ireland without the consent of the majority of the population there.

Vital guarantee to population

This guarantee has been the basis of Northern Ireland policy for both Conservative and Labour governments, including Mr Callaghan's own. In Whitehall it is regarded as vital still for the reassurance of Northern Ireland's Protestant population, and the prospect of a senior figure as Mr Callaghan questioning it has excited some nervousness.

It remains to be seen, though, what words Mr Callaghan will choose.

Today's debate will also concern renewal for six months of the Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions Act—the basis of the courts which sit without juries in Northern Ireland to try those charged with terrorist offences.

Mr Foot and the Labour front bench will urge today that the Government should set up a judicial inquiry into the Act, to make sure that civil rights are being properly protected. But the Government intends to resist this proposal.

In Whitehall it was made known that Mrs Margaret Thatcher was anxious to meet the new Taoiseach soon. The Anglo-Irish study groups, set up at the last summit with the former Irish Prime Minister, Mr Charles Haughey, cannot continue further without ministerial direction.

Contempt blow to Government

The Government was defeated in the Lords when an amendment was carried against the advice of Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, which would make it a contempt to disclose, solicit, or obtain anything taking place in a jury room. The amendment, carried by 76 votes to 41, a majority of 35 against the Government, came during Lords consideration of Commons amendments to the Contempt of Court Bill.

Parliamentary report, page 5

Bank lending under scrutiny

A parliamentary study group has been established to assemble evidence for an attack on bank lending policies. It was set up because of the belief that industry has been handicapped by excessively short-term lending policies, and is to report by the autumn.

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Iranians held

Fifty left-wing guerrillas were arrested for plotting to blow up the Iranian parliament in Tehran. The new leader of the Islamic Republican Party said they were arrested after a gun fight.

Page 6

State aid for parties urged

Political parties should receive aid from public funds to match their subscription income, a committee of the Hansard Society proposes.

Page 2

Mandlikova and Lloyd in final

Chris Lloyd, of the United States, will play Hana Mandlikova, of Czechoslovakia, in the final of the women's singles at Wimbledon tomorrow. Yesterday Mrs Lloyd beat another American, Pamela Shriver 6-3, 6-1.

Page 3

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University results, page 14; Times Information Service, back page

Begin hopes to form coalition next week

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, July 1

Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Dr Joseph Burg, the leader of the National Religious Party (NRP), who met tonight to discuss the possibility of forming a government, are agreed that a new coalition could be formed by next week.

Dr Burg told reporters after the meeting it was likely that the political link between the Likud and his party would continue. He added that the Tami party of Oriental Jews, which is predicted to win two seats, may also join such a coalition.

Earlier it had been thought that Tami and NRP might have problems in sitting together round the same Cabinet table. Later a high-level Likud source expressed confidence that Mr Begin would be able to form a new Government with between 63 and 64 supporters in the 120-seat Knesset.

Conclusive results of the poll are expected from tomorrow when the National Election Commission tallies the votes and apportion seats according to the percentage each party won nationally.

After the most indecisive election result in recent Israeli history, intensive negotiations began today designed to form a coalition with a majority in the Knesset. The political bargaining is expected to last for at least two weeks.

Although computer forecasts still gave the Labour Party a one-seat lead over the ruling Conservative Party, there was a wide agreement among all parties that Mr Begin stands much the best chance of forming the next administration.

With 49 seats predicted for Labour, 48 for Likud, and 11 for the two main religious parties, senior members of the opposition concede that it would be easier for Likud to reconstitute the existing coalition than for Labour to form a new one.

Labour officials were speculating that a new Likud coalition may well be too unstable to last out its term of office. But by today all Labour optimism for a return to power encouraged by early computer predictions, had evaporated.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, still insists that he would try to form a coalition, but his staff have decided that the party will make no further comment about its chances until the result is known.

Mr Begin told his cheering supporters that he would form the Government of Israel for the next four and a half years. As a result of the election, the Likud can command an absolute majority among members of the Knesset.

Political observers pointed out tonight that until the final votes—including those from the Army—are counted, precise figures are unreliable as changes of a seat or two in either direction remain possible.

What did seem certain was that the next Israeli government will have to live with an extremely vulnerable parliamentary majority.

It is understood as part of the effort to entice the NRP, Mr Begin is prepared to offer the party the Ministry of Agriculture and portfolios in other areas.

In addition, Dr Burg is expected to stay on as chief of Israel's delegation on the Palestinian autonomy issue.

In addition, the Likud package is also expected to include pledges to introduce religious-oriented social legislation, to maintain government finance for religious institutions such as schools and to uphold the religious law on civil marriage.

Israel's politicians argued that Labour was unable to offer a similar price for religious backing because of the anti-orthodox views of some of its members, and of other coalition partners it would have to recruit. These were expressed on a number of occasions during the campaign.

As the coalition building continues, the next official move after the final votes are counted will come from President Yitzhak Navon who, over the next two weeks, will call in the leaders of the Knesset factions for consultation.

No 'obey' promise by Lady Diana

There will be a break with tradition at the royal wedding on July 29 at St Paul's Cathedral when Lady Diana Spencer will not promise to obey the Prince of Wales.

The wedding service, details of which were announced by Buckingham Palace yesterday, mainly follows the 1947 alternative Marriage Rite of the Church of England, drawn up in 1928. That service, unlike the 1662 version, permits the bride to exclude the promise to obey her husband.

Princess Anne, who married Captain Mark Phillips in 1973, and the Queen, who was married in 1947, both said they would obey their husbands. The Very Rev Dr Edward Carpenter, Dean of Westminster Abbey where both couples were married, said he was delighted with the break with tradition.



North meets South: Mr Roy Jenkins, campaigning for the social democrats in Warrington, is given a pensioner's view on a by-election issue. (SDP makes the running, page 2.)

Heath attacks economic policies and moves to curb unions

By Philip Webster, Political Staff

Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, attacked the Government's economic policies, spoke out against any further legislation to curb the power of the trade unions.

Recalling the experience of his government after the 1971 Industrial Relations Act, Mr Heath, in remarks which will clearly embarrass the Government as ministers consider a new bill for the next session of Parliament, argued that the Government's policies would be a disaster.

Mr Heath, standing in at short notice for Professor J K Galbraith, the American economist, delivered an address entitled "The British Economy: Strategies for Renewal" in which he bitterly criticized the Government's "incomprehensible policies" regarding the current wage and cost reduction could not be divorced from the economic situation.

"If you have half a million young people hanging around on the streets all day you will have a massive increase in juvenile crime. Of course you have had blacks with some chance of getting jobs."

Mr Heath went on: "So I ask myself what will happen if it is done again. Will businessmen again say they are sorry but this will strain their relations with the unions and do not propose to use it?"

In that case the Government would have used up a lot of parliamentary time and created a situation of tension for something that industry would not use. "There is no point in going on doing that," he said.

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Universities told of severe cuts

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The social sciences and subjects allied to medicine are worst hit in severe cuts for the universities to be announced by the Government today.

Five universities are to have their student numbers cut by more than 15 per cent by 1984/85. They are: Aston, Bedford, Bradford, Hull and Strirling.

In a confidential letter sent to all vice-chancellors last night the University Grants Committee says that subjects allied to medicine are to lose a quarter of their students over the next three years, most of that falling on pharmacy, while the social sciences are to suffer "a substantial reduction" in student numbers with the aim of improving the staff student ratio and strengthening the opportunities for research.

Overall, universities will lose 11 to 12 per cent of their income in grants and home student fees by 1983/84, and five per cent of their home students by 1984/85.

As foreshadowed in *The Times* last week, some will have their grant cut by more than 25 per cent; others, not necessarily the same ones, will lose more than a fifth of their home students.

In a covering letter to all universities the UGC says that it envisages a worsening of about 10 per cent in the average unit of resource, that is the average cost per student, including some decline in all universities. That should be borne in mind, it says, when universities are considering the committee's guidance on individual subject areas.

Details of the cuts and how each university has fared will be announced by Mr Mark Carls, Secretary of State for Education and Science, in a Commons written answer this afternoon.

A significant increase in resources has been allowed for retraining, part-time, extra-mural and adult education. The number of medical students is to be kept at its present level. The UGC says, however, that it is "no longer able to increase in grant funds to enable universities to offer clinical medicine the protection it has hitherto enjoyed."

Dentistry is to suffer a less than average cut in resources, and student numbers are to be kept at their present level pending the results of the review now being undertaken. Mathematics, engineering and technology, and business studies are all to have a slight increase in student numbers. The arts are to have a slightly greater than average cut.

There is no firm guidance on education which is under review by the Government's Advisory Committee on the Supply and Training of Teachers. The UGC says that it expects there will be some reduction in numbers, but further guidance will be offered in time for 1982/83.

In biological sciences, the UGC says that important new developments should be supported, but that those developments would be "to some extent at the expense of other aspects" of the biological sciences.

No university is totally exempt from the cuts. The UGC talks of a "significant variation" in the advice to individual universities about the degree of worsening of their unit of resource.

Even Oxford, for example, has been told that it must reduce its home students slightly, and make financial cuts in some specific departments.

Conflicting Soviet signals on Afghan conference

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, July 1

The Russians today sent out conflicting signals on Moscow's willingness to negotiate a political solution in Afghanistan.

Senior Communist Party officials told Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, that the Soviet Union wanted a negotiated settlement guaranteeing the country's non-aligned status. But two commentators in the past day by the official news agency, Tass, have all but rejected out of hand the British call for a two-stage conference.

The confusion comes with Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, due here on Sunday to outline his proposals put forward in the name of the European Community. His visit will be the first by a senior British minister since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

A tongue-tied commentary by Tass today, referring specifically to the British proposals, denounced them as an attempt to exclude the Afghan Government from any search for a solution and to decide the country's destiny behind its back.

Tass said the only basis for a negotiated solution leading to a withdrawal of Soviet troops lay in Kabul's proposal last year that called for direct talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan and Iran.

The agency pointedly emphasized the Afghan declaration that "the interests of Afghanistan cannot be discussed, let alone decided, without the participation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan or without its knowledge."

The Tass report, dated Washington, went on to repeat the Soviet position that they were ready to discuss the situation "around" Afghanistan either with or separately from security in the Gulf. But only the international aspects of the Afghan problem could be discussed.

This report appears to rule out any chance that Lord Carrington's proposals will prompt a change of heart here. However, several recent western visitors here, including a delegation of American congressmen who spoke to Soviet officials yesterday, have claimed to detect a Soviet readiness to look for a way out of the present impasse in Afghanistan.

Herr Brandt, who today had talks with Mr Boris Ponomarev, a senior candidate member of the Politburo, and Mr Vadim Zagladin, an influential foreign affairs specialist, has spent a large part of his visit here discussing Afghanistan.

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State aid plan to double political parties' income

By Our Political Staff

A proposal that political parties should receive aid from public funds to match their subscription income was put forward yesterday in a report from the Hansard Society, the independent parliamentary study group.

A committee headed by Mr Edmund Dell, the former Labour Cabinet minister, says it is desirable to restrain the growing dependence of the main political parties upon institutional support, which is not only unhealthy, but can lead to a dangerous polarisation of political attitudes, and so distort democratic choice.

Aid from public funds should depend upon a party's popularity, the committee says, and it proposed that for every £2 contributed to a political party at local level, a matching payment of £2 should be made by the state to the party's central headquarters. The aid would be a limit of £5m a year paid out, and a limit to each party.

To achieve a maximum grant, a party would have to secure contributions from nearly one in 12 of those who had voted for it at the previous general election.

On the basis of votes cast in the 1979 general election, the parties would have become entitled to the following maximum sums:

Conservative, £2,275,000; Labour, £1,921,000; Liberal, £714,000; SNP/PC, £100,000. Total, £5,000,000.

To qualify for aid a political party would have to have secured 12½ per cent of the vote in at least six constituencies, or had at least two MPs elected, or had one MP elected, and received not less than 150,000 votes nationally.

The committee rejects the idea put forward in 1976 by the Houghton committee, set up by the last Labour government,

which recommended cash grants to party organisations at levels governed by each party's electoral support. The Hansard Society committee says it did not see why the state should protect parties from the financial consequences of falling membership, or from the inability to attract support. Nor could it agree that political parties should be singled out for protection against inflation.

But it said that unless parties had enough money for their activities, democracy could not function efficiently. Its proposals offer many advantages. It would encourage the parties to broaden their appeal and seek new members; to seek a large number of small donors rather than a small number of large donors.

The committee hoped that public support of the proposed pattern would also encourage contributors to participate in politics, and join political parties.

If local parties could attract more members, they could again become lively and responsive, and would not be dominated by a small number of old faithfuls or unrepresentative activists.

The scheme provides the parties with aid only if they succeed in persuading individuals to contribute. It therefore avoids one of the dangers of unconditional aid, since it ensures that aid cannot be used to shore up parties which the public does not wish to support.

The Liberal Party welcomed the report yesterday. The Labour Party's commission of inquiry, which reported last year, said that the introduction of state aid should be a piece of essential for the continued functioning of the political parties and for the health of the democratic system.

Cost of Civil Service £8,336m last year

By Peter Hennessy

It costs each man, woman and child about £3 a week to support the running costs of the Civil Service. Before a single benefit is paid, parliamentary question answered, Bill drafted, weapon procured or Cabinet minute typed, according to figures published by the Government for the first time yesterday.

A White Paper on efficiency in the Civil Service prepared by the Civil Service Department showed that the salaries, pensions, accommodation and overheads of Whitehall and its outstations consumed £8,336m of public money in 1980-81.

As part of their drive for greater efficiency and economy, the Government has decided to publish the White Paper as an interim report on progress achieved in moving towards their goal of a slimmer, more effective government machine. The document was due for release before Easter, but the department originally was sensitive to the irony of a statement on efficiency appearing at a time when a large part of the Government's revenue-raising apparatus was paralysed by industrial action, as it still is.

In a preamble to the White Paper, Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council, wrote: "It is a matter of great regret that the dispute over pay has interrupted progress. Damage to particular services will be made good and this is bound to take time."

"Morale and public confidence have been set back and will have to be painstakingly rebuilt. The Government's objective remains the same: a Civil Service commanding the respect of the public and the pride of those who work in it."

The White Paper's analysis of Civil Service running costs is a new venture designed to assist ministers and permanent secretaries in achieving a tighter grip on the management of manpower and money in their departments.

The document also announced the Government's decision to make departments pay for accommodation and other services formerly provided free of charge by the Property Services Agency. The object of the change is to make ministers and senior officials more aware of the overheads they incur.

Efficiency in the Civil Service, Cm 823, Stationery Office, £2.10.

Drive to slim DoE, page 3

Pressure by union for all-out strike

By Donald McIntyre

The largest Civil Service union will this morning press for an all-out strike on the ground that it is the only way left of persuading the Government to increase its 7 per cent pay offer for 1981.

The executive of the Civil and Public Services Association last night agreed to go for all-out action rather than continue the increasingly costly strategy of selective strikes.

Mr Alistair Graham, the union's deputy general secretary, said: "We shall want to analyse very closely whether there will be sufficient money to sustain continued selective action."

The Civil Service unions yesterday stepped up industrial action by revenue collection staff with the aim of blocking payment of corporation and other tax. It is expected that £125m will be lost during the coming month.

The council of Civil Service unions will be advised by Mr William Kendall, its secretary general, to give evidence to the inquiry under Sir John Megaw. It will consider whether to continue selective strikes or to opt for an all-out stoppage favoured by most members, consulted by the largest union, the Civil and Public Services Association.

The council, nevertheless, faces a real dilemma today. Some union leaders will question whether that level of financial support can be sustained while others will want to know how many of the assumed £50,000 white-collar civil servants would take part in an all-out strike of at least two weeks.

Diary, page 12

Communists make inroads into Labour

Power at the top

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Communists in the trade union movement are setting their sights on becoming fully active within the Labour Party after their most successful season of political activity for years.

With only the railwaymen and the miners still on the conference circuit, Communists and their allies are counting the gains on issues such as unilateral disarmament, the boycott of the 1980 Employment Act and the campaign to propel Mr Wedgwood Benn into the Labour deputy leadership.

Years of sedulous activity in trade union elections have put an increasing number of Communist Party members into positions of power and responsibility in the labour movement, and their presence could be a critical factor in the leadership battle.

At its most obvious, the communist influence can swing huge block votes for Mr Benn, as it did in the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, whose 200,000-strong vote is almost certain to go to the left candidate because of a executive decision involving three Communists last week.

But almost as important as far as the Communist Party is concerned is the campaign to retain the Wembley special conference formula for the Labour Party electoral college which gives the unions the biggest say in choosing leader and deputy leader.

"Other key planks in the Communist manifesto" are unilateral disarmament, withdrawal from the EEC, a vast extension of nationalisation, free collective bargaining and opposition to incomes policy, and root and branch hostility towards the Government's labour law reforms.

Communist Party militants persuaded policy-makers in the country's second largest union, the Amalgamated Engineering Workers, not to accept a standstill for secret ballots at the start of the conference season. Since then they have claimed credit for unilateralist votes at the steelworkers and elsewhere and the growing demand from unions for outright withdrawal from the EEC. Free collective bargaining is practically universal policy.

The communists' advances in the unions are out of proportion to their numbers, and probably owe as much to the strong reaction against the Conservative Government as to the attractiveness of Communist Party policies.

The same line goes into each union from the Communist Party industrial department, and in the words of Mr Bert Ramelson, a former industrial organizer: "An idea floated by the Communist Party early in the year can become official Labour Party policy by the autumn of the same year."

The next phase of party strategy is to win the lifting of the ban on Communists being members of the Labour Party so they can take their places as delegates. A campaign to end the ban is to be launched.

Some unions, such as the miners, send Communists as delegates to the Labour conference and they take part in pre-conference delegation meetings on how the National Union of Mineworkers vote should be cast. But they cannot sit in the hall.

But all Communists are instructed to pay the Labour political levy, and Mr Michael Costello, the Communist Party's national industrial organizer,

said yesterday: "When Mr Frank Chapple casts his vote at the Labour Party conference this will include the votes of Communists in the electricians' union."

The real problem is that Communists are unfairly discriminated against.

Communists are active in the Labour Coordinating Committee, a political pressure group

that supports Mr Benn and is seeking to extend the radical changes won in the party into the unions. Party members, including Mr Derek Robinson, are attending the committee's conference in London on July 14 and two leading Communists, Mr Ken Gill of the engineering union, and Mr Michael McGeahy, of the miners, are sponsors of the event.

COMMUNIST PRESENCE IN LABOUR PARTY-AFFILIATED TRADE UNIONS	
General Secretary	Ben Rubner, Furniture, Timber & Allied Trades (FATAT); George Gurr, Sheet Metal Workers' Union (SMWU); Ken Gill, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW); (Tass)
Asst General Secretary	John Scott, AUEW (engineering section); Ken Spectman, AUEW (construction section); Mr Terry Marshall, Tobacco Workers Union (TWU); Jim Keenan, FIA; Maurice Styles, Union of Communication Workers (UCW); Bill Hockley, Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers & Firemen (ASLEF); Arthur Ulling, Union of Construction, Allied Trade & Technicians (UCATT); (Tass)
President-chairman	George Deakin, AUEW (construction section); Michael McGeahy, National Union of Mineworkers (NUM); Victor Selvey, Transport & General Workers' Union (TGWU); (Tass)
Vice-president	Informal presence on national executives: UCATT—Tress (Arthur Ulling, Hugh O'Carry, Jack Henry); NUP—about the (including Neil McClellan, John Scanlon, Jack Nicholson); NUA—Four (Joe Whelan, Nottinghamshire; Michael McGeahy, Scotland; Jack Collins, Kent; and George Pears, Wales); FIA—Four out of 25 (Victor Selvey, George Kirby, Peter Fussy and Eric Richmond); ASLEF—Two out of nine (Bill Rensley and Charles Hodgson); Also: Sheet Metal Workers' Union; Tailors & Garment Workers' AUEW (Tass); Influence among national officers: AUEW (Tass); FIA; AUEW (engineering); NUM; Broad left: Influence: ASLEF; UCATT; TGWU.
Member of the TUC General Council	

Railmen seek cuts in overtime to save jobs

From David Felton, Labour Reporter, St Andrews

Britain's largest rail union is to launch a campaign to persuade its members to reduce excessive overtime working so that new jobs can be created in the industry.

The average amount of overtime worked by British Rail's 250,000 employees is more than ten hours a week. The National Union of Railwaymen's conference in St Andrews was told yesterday that eliminating all overtime would lead to 20,000 new jobs being available.

Mr Sidney Weighell, the union's general secretary, said that railway staff worked 35 per cent of their rest days and that there were more than 10,000 vacancies in the industry.

Mr Weighell said: "Overtime is inefficient, it creates tension and strain at work and has damaging effects on morale, performance and absenteeism. Overtime also increases resistance to the introduction of new technology when the staff are overworked and have become dependent upon working additional hours."

The conference yesterday agreed to pursue a reduction in the working week but pulled back from a commitment which was demanded by left-wingers for the early introduction of a 35-hour week. Delegates also

instructed union negotiators to seek a substantial pay increase in negotiations next year, when the Government intends to restrict pay rises to 5 per cent. Mr Weighell pledged that the 167,000-strong NUR would play its part in negotiations on changes in working practices but only on the understanding that other sections of the industry would do the same.

There had been calls earlier in the conference for the basic minimum of the lowest grade railway worker to be raised to £90 a week from the present £88.75. There was also a demand that if the claim was thrown out by British Rail, the union should take strike action in conjunction with its "single linkage" partners in the National Union of Mineworkers and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

That move was defeated by the union leadership after Mr Weighell appealed to delegates not to tie his hand in next year's pay negotiations.

British Rail has refused to increase a 7 per cent pay offer to rail workers this year in response to a 15 per cent claim. The results of an arbitration hearing are expected in the next few weeks.



Cardinal O'Flaherty celebrating Mass on Clapham Common before 5,000 people.

Cardinal proclaims ecumenist Plunkett

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Speaking in the presence of a casket containing the headless body of his predecessor Oliver Plunkett and on the 300th anniversary of his execution, Cardinal Tomás O'Flaherty, Archbishop of Armagh, praised the spirit of tolerance between Protestants and Catholics which he had stood for in a time of persecution.

Oliver Plunkett, canonized in 1975 by Pope Paul VI, was condemned to death for treason on evidence arising from the Titus Oates plot, and executed at Tyburn in London on July 1, 1681. The false witness against him, Cardinal O'Flaherty recalled at yesterday's commemorative mass in London, was given by nine Irish Catholics, four of them priests. The case was exposed as a fabrication immediately afterwards.

Cardinal O'Flaherty said that during St Oliver's time as Archbishop of Armagh, he had been constantly attacked from within the Roman Catholic church for being too friendly to Protestants. He had a friendly relationship with the Church of Ireland Primate, and with other leading Protestants in Ireland. "We can claim him as an ecumenist three centuries before his time."

With Cardinal Hume and a large assembly of Roman Catholic bishops and priests from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, Cardinal O'Flaherty celebrated Mass before a crowd of about 5,000 on Clapham Common, south London.

A message from the Pope was delivered during the Mass.

The body was brought from Downside Abbey, Somerset, by hearse on Monday.

IRA KILLER NOT TO BE HANGED

From Our Correspondent

Peter Rogers, aged 36, the Belfast IRA man who was due to be hanged in the Irish Republic on July 9 for the capital murder of a policeman, last night had his death sentence commuted by President Hillery.

The President, on the instructions of the Irish Government, substituted a 40-year sentence and ruled that it should be served without restriction.

The policeman was shot dead when he stopped a van driven by Rogers which was carrying explosives. Police have since published that the bombs were to be shipped to Britain for a bombing campaign last Christmas.

Belvoir coal ruling may be deferred

By John Young

A decision on whether to allow development of the Vale of Belvoir coalfield, in Leicestershire, is not expected until next week at the earliest.

The most likely verdict is thought to be that the planning application by the National Coal Board should not be rejected out of hand but should be reconsidered at a later date.

The subject is apparently not on the agenda for today's Cabinet meeting and when an announcement is made it will not be presented as a collective Cabinet decision. Despite its national implications, the report of the inspector, Mr Michael Mann O.C., will be treated as dealing with a normal planning appeal, and the decision will be issued in the usual way by letter from Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, to the applicant.

However the fact that the report has been with Mr Heseltine since last December clearly indicates that the matter is not being left solely to him. Among other ministers with a direct interest are Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, and Mr David Howell, Secretary of State of Energy.

There is also speculation about the attitude of the Prime Minister whose home town, Grantham, lies close to the Vale and was the scene of the inquiry.

The Duke of Rutland, owner of Belvoir Castle and one of the leading opponents of the proposed development, yesterday dismissed reports of its rejection as pure speculation.

Nevertheless both the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Coal Board issued further warnings about the possible effects of rejection. The NUM begins its annual conference in Jersey next week, and its secretary, Mr Lawrence Daly, said it would "fight all the way" to reverse an adverse decision.

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NICK FALDO
Leading British Golfer

DAILY STAR

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BRITAIN'S FASTEST GROWING NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

*Subject to audit

Ivory dog sold for £23,880

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A tiny Japanese ivory carving of a smiling dog, with jet inlaid eyes, secured one of the highest ever auction prices for a net-suke when it sold for £48,000, or £23,880, at Christie's in New York on Tuesday. It would have proven the bargain of the season, for Christie's original estimate on the piece was only \$400 to \$600.

The engaging little dog bears the signature of the eighteenth-century Kyoto-school carver, Okamoto. So popular were his animal carvings, particularly his guinea and horses, that they were copied in their thousands by later artists—especially in the nineteenth century. The copiers thought nothing of adding Okamoto's signature, sometimes with considerable skill.

Christie's New York catalogue, an expert with specialist knowledge of Japanese art, has assumed that he was handling one of these later copies. As a safety measure Mr Peter Buffon from the London office flew to New York before the sale; he changed the cataloguing or estimate or both on half a dozen items.

He set a revised estimate on the piece at \$15,000 to \$25,000 and it was bought by Oriental Treasures, a dealer from Hawaii.

A mid-nineteenth-century net-suke of a standing tiger had its estimate revised upwards from \$1,500-\$2,500 to \$6,000-\$8,000 but this was still short of the mark. It sold for \$17,000, or £8,457, also to Oriental Treasures.

The sale included both Chinese and Japanese works of art and ended with 28 per cent unsold out of the £698,512 total.

In London yesterday Sotheby's held two sales of Impressionist and modern art and again they proved an uphill struggle. Some 40 per cent of both sales was unsold, with paintings and sculpture totalling £1.4m and drawings £1.3m. There was a sprinkling of high prices, notably among the drawings.

Henry Moore watercolours of 1940, sketches of reclining sculptural figures, made the highest price ever achieved at auction for one of his drawings when it sold for £15,000 (estimate £5,000 to £8,000) to Kirkman, a London dealer.

Curbs on overseas doctors sought by BMA

From Nicholas Timmins, Brighton

The British Medical Association yesterday called for controls over the number of overseas doctors allowed into Britain and for regulations over the period they are allowed to practise.

Speakers at the association's annual representatives' meeting in Brighton called for work permits, or a voucher system, to limit numbers and ensure that those who do come receive proper training.

The move, which was strongly supported by several overseas doctors, although opposed by some, came as the association called for changes in doctors' career structure and fewer medical students, and expressed fears about rising medical unemployment.

Dr Christopher Wells, chairman of the BMA's manpower committee, said unemployment among doctors had risen to 600 last year.

Doctors told of dozens, sometimes scores, of applicants queuing both for hospital jobs and partnerships in general practice. The meeting called for an urgent expansion of the consultant grade to enable the number of junior hospital doctor posts to be cut.

The conference was told that many of the 20,000 overseas doctors here had ended up in dead-end jobs, with poor facilities, training, and career prospects. Many were deeply disillusioned.

Dr Hamid Husain, a general practitioner from Rotherham, said little could be done to improve the lot of those already here unless the numbers arriving were controlled. "The need to regulate the entry of overseas doctors is of paramount importance."

GLC ends fight over home transfers

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Labour-controlled Greater London Council yesterday reluctantly accepted that further opposition to the transfer of council homes to the last eight London boroughs was hopeless after the failure of Tuesday's vote in the House of Commons against Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

It will now abandon its election promise to fight against the compulsory transfer of some 53,000 homes to the boroughs which do not want them.

Mr Ken Livingstone, GLC leader, commented: "This is a major defeat for our housing policy in London", adding that the GLC could see no way of avoiding the transfer.

The council has been advised that there is nothing more legally to be done to prevent the compulsory transfer, which is due next April. As soon as the Labour Party gained control of the council in May, Mrs Gladys Dimson, the housing chairman, wrote to Mr Heseltine declaring the council's opposition and seeking to persuade him to change his mind.

Mr Heseltine's refusal to contemplate a change, emphasized in the Commons debate, effectively ends any hope for the council.

Mr Livingstone will tell his Labour colleagues at a group meeting next Monday of the decision, and the housing committee will probably consider it next Thursday.

It will cost the GLC an estimated £40m over the next 10 years to bring all the 240,000 GLC-owned dwellings up to the required standard.

In addition an estimated £337m will be needed for the maintenance and management of the housing stock.

The Department of Health said last night that no extra staff would be needed because there were still more medical vacancies than doctors. There were about 650 doctors registered out of work but they were either between jobs or out of the country.

The association's meeting was briefly disrupted in the afternoon by members of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.



Candace Bahouth, a New Yorker who now lives in Somerset, with two of her tapestries, 'Jackie' and 'Nile Arab' on show yesterday at an exhibition of contemporary British tapestry at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norwich. After August 9 the exhibition will go on tour.

Union anger at dockyard inefficiency

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

Inefficient management at the royal dockyards was criticised yesterday by a group of Labour MPs. The Government announced the closure of one dockyard and a sharp cut-back at another.

They were giving evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on Defence as part of an inquiry into the dockyards which was started before the publication of the defence review last week.

Mr Peter Adams, of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, complained that there were nine different levels of management in the dockyards, which hampered efficiency.

Small enterprises had been set up and it was difficult to see how they could be broken down without wholesale reorganisation. Their preservation had become very important to those involved.

Mr Adams was appearing before the committee as chairman of the union side of the Government Industrial Shipbuilding Trades Joint Council. Invited by the MPs to suggest how productivity in the dockyards could be improved, he said there was no unwillingness to work among employees.

The objective should be to ensure that another job was waiting as soon as one was finished. People do not hang about when they are working, he said.

But management have not found it possible to keep that flow of work. "If you counted productivity in bits of paper there is no doubt that it has gone up by leaps and bounds," he added.

There was no doubting the skill and quality of work done by the dockyard employees. The difficulty was keeping them busy. The union representatives and MPs expressed concern over the future for apprentices in the yards.

Meanwhile local MPs and councillors from the Portsmouth area held a "frank and wide-ranging" discussion with Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday on the impact of last week's defence decision.

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Big variations in car parts costs criticized

By Peter Waymark, Motoring Correspondent

Wide differences between the cost of parts for similarly priced cars are revealed in a report published today by the Consumers' Association.

Which? says it can find little justification for the disparities. It suggests that some car manufacturers are taking a bigger profit on parts than others, perhaps to keep down the price of the car.

The report criticises car makers who insist on the fitting of authorized parts during the warranty period when parts of equal quality but lower price might be available elsewhere.

The report compares the cost of parts for 76 cars. A "basket" of routine items such as spark plugs, fan belt and brakes pads, came to £29 for the Reliant Sprite compared with £44 for the Polonez and £61 for the Citroen Visa.

For another batch of parts, including alternator, clutch and radiator, the bill was £367 for the Metro and £728 for the Honda Civic. A gear box cost £493 for the Vauxhall Astra but only £138 for the Talbot Averger.

The report says that owners of cars from British manufacturers can often buy parts at lower prices on an exchange basis and that several foreign car makers do not have an exchange scheme.

Among the cars with the most expensive parts in relation to the cost of the vehicle were the East European Polski Fiat, Polonez and Lada, the Japanese Colt Sigma and 1400, Datsun Bluebird, Mazda 323 and Honda Civic, and the Peugeot 104 and Lancia Beta.

Models with the least expensive spares in relation to vehicle price were mainly from British manufacturers and included the Austin Allegro and Maxi; Ford Capri, Cortina and Granada; Talbot Alpine and Avenger; and Vauxhall Carlton.

The report advises motorists to consider not just the cost of spares but the reliability of the car they are buying. Reliable cars often cost less to run, even if their spares are expensive.

Which? also criticizes car manufacturers for misleading fuel consumption claims in advertisements. The motorist should be told about fuel economy in real terms, so that he or she knows how far a gallon of petrol is likely to take him in normal driving.

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Disease in sheep is danger to humans

By Hugh Clayton

Veterinary groups called yesterday for Government help against a little-known animal infection which can cause death in humans. They said that Britain lagged in curbing the condition even though it was widespread in some rural districts including the Lake District and parts of Scotland and was admitted to have caused seven human deaths in 1979.

Hydatid disease is caused by a minute worm less than a quarter of an inch long which depends on sheep and dogs for survival. Mr John Parry, a former president of the British Veterinary Association, explained after a meeting of the association's governing council last Monday that the disease in humans it produced "very nasty cysts about the size of a soccer ball attached to the liver".

Large cysts had to be removed by surgery because they were capable of blocking circulation to the heart, and some people did not make a very satisfactory recovery, Mr Parry said.

The condition occurs only in sheep-rearing areas. A dog may eat parts of an infected dead sheep and act as a host for the worm which is harmless to the dog, but which can be deposited in the dog's droppings. It may then contaminate grass and be consumed by another sheep.

Mr Leslie Porter, senior veterinary surgeon in Britain with the Bayer chemical group, said: "The scale of the problem in Wales would certainly justify an eradication scheme."

At present, a chairman of a group which has just finished a pilot control scheme in two valleys in the county of Powys which has the highest sheep density in Britain and contains more than 5 per cent of the BBC sheep population.

The scheme had shown that a drug developed by Bayer in West Germany could control the condition through regular dosage of dogs. That was done in other countries including New Zealand with large numbers of sheep flocks. The dogs used were given the drug every six weeks at a cost of less than a fl a dose.

The association also protested over the Government's refusal to ban the ritual slaughter of farm animals which are not stunned first. Mr James Allcock, secretary of the association, said: "We cannot find slaughter without stunning compatible with animal welfare."

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Science report

Laboratory on river to study insects

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A research team conducting an unusual series of experiments into the conditions of a stretch of the Frome, near Wareham, in Dorset, has discovered more than 50 aquatic creatures that are new to science.

But the discovery by Dr Clive Pinder of the insects which belong to a family of non-biting midges called Chironomidae, is a by-product of studies of direct relevance to the practical job of managing river systems.

For the work of the Freshwater Biological Association at its laboratories at East Stoke is to understand the interaction and the biology of rivers and to find ways of determining how differences between natural conditions and the disruption created by man. Two important experiments have been devised. Both make the river become part of a laboratory.

In the first, the laboratory is built across the stream and the river flows through two channels with plate glass windows inside the building.

The other project, called the recirculating experimental stream, is a closed circuit, the source of another Dorset river, under a research contract supported jointly by the Department of the Environment and the Natural Environment Research Council.

The experimental stream consists of two channels which are two metres wide, and they are both built in the shape of an oval race track 50 metres long. They are filled with water, coming directly from natural sources.

The plan is to use the experimental streams to reproduce the events happening in a volume of water as it journeys from its source to the river estuary. These studies have been built on chemistry, microbiology, botany and fishery biology.

There are many examples of the benefits to river management from the type of fundamental ecological research done by the Freshwater Association. One of the most unusual was prompted after reports that an insect with a vicious bite had become a pest to people in the Blomford area of Dorset near the Stour.

The pest was identified by Dr Michael Liddle as a black fly that normally inhabited the edges of inland lakes. Damaged to moderate the flow had produced ideal conditions for a weed on which the larvae of the insect could be fed.

The pest was simply by clearing the weed early in the year before the insect hatches. In showing how to create proper records, a chemistry group of the laboratory has made a long-term study of river water quality. The results show an increase of 1 part per million (one-thirtieth of one milligramme in one litre) in the concentration of nitrates, probably from fertilizers, over the past 15 years near Wareham. Similar figures have been calculated for potassium, sodium, silicon and other elements.

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Judge told of message in pram

A dead chinchilla, a hammer, a squash melon and a mysteriously worded message have been found in a garage at the Surrey home of Mrs Elizabeth Hegard, the former model at the centre of the "company cuff-links" case.

The bizarre collection was in a baby's pram, a High Court judge was told yesterday. The message read: "For the ones you love, you have only one life to live." The items were found on June 17—five days after the court hearing was adjourned.

Mr Justice Comyn was told of the incident by a police witness when the hearing resumed yesterday. The judge said he regarded the matter as extremely serious.

"I again say, in the strongest possible terms, that intimidation of anybody in this case will be viewed by me as a serious contempt of court," he said.

At an earlier hearing, Mrs Hegard had given evidence of finding a large stone with a note wrapped round it in her baby's pram. She said that two days later she was attacked near her house and hit on the head.

Mrs Hegard's four-year marriage to Mr Per Christian Hegard, a Norwegian millionaire, was dissolved in Scotland last February. Two of Mr Hegard's companies, Seton Fine Arts and Inverly House, are suing her for the return of £50,000 worth of jewelry and other items.

The companies claim the jewels, including diamond-studded cuff-links, were on loan to her and were company property. Mrs Hegard argues that they were gifts from her husband.

Yesterday, Mrs Hegard recalled how she received gifts from her husband. Before the hearing was adjourned until today, Mr Justice Comyn told Mrs Hegard: "If you have any trouble overnight, remember what I said earlier."

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Coin Street decision upheld by judge

By John Young, Planning Reporter

A decision to postpone for three months a public inquiry into the redevelopment of the Coin Street site, on London's South Bank, was neither perverse nor unreasonable, a High Court judge decreed yesterday.

Mr Justice Gibson rejected an application by Greycor Commercial Estates for a judicial order quashing the decision of Mr Victor Radmore, the inquiry inspector, to adjourn the inquiry at the request of the Greater London Council. An appeal by the company is likely to be heard next Tuesday.

During a discussion about the award of costs, the judge drew attention to the many barristers employed on the case. It had caused him some concern and he questioned the need for the Secretary of State for the Environment and the inspector, who were presenting identical evidence, to be represented by separate counsel.

The Greater London Council, Southwark and Lambeth councils were also cited as respondents at the hearing and were represented by separate counsel.

The judge said he was not "not without reason, indignant" about the delay which had occurred through no fault of their own. There was a general public interest in the avoidance of undue delay in the planning process, but he did not accept that the inspector had failed to take

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THE ARTS

Dance

Anelaborate but litral ballet

The yal Ballet end their season at the Metropolitan Ope New York, this week, before moving on to Toronto.

Cit Barnes reports on the American premiere of Keth MacMillan's Isadora

Keth MacMillan's *Isadora* is extraordinary — it is extraordinary, almost, in the sense of grand failure one would expect to have than a cheap success. *Isadora*, which was given its American premiere at the Metropolitan Opera House this week, is the first in MacMillan's narrative ballets that began with *Anastasia* and continued with *Mexon* and *apering*. They are all fundamentally theatre pieces. They all concentrate on a woman — possibly *Mayerling* was an exception there — and they all put far more emphasis on drama than on dance.

This is almost a tradition of British Ballet. Choreographers such as Robert Helpmann, John Cranko and Peter Dezelic have all emphasized drama more than dance. So *Isadora* should not really surprise anyone — even if it does not actually excite anyone.

MacMillan planned *Isadora*, I suspect he meant it as a vehicle for his favourite ballerina, Lynn Seymour. This did not work out, but the irony is that Frederick Ashton years ago gave Seymour a dance solo that so totally recalled the pictures of Duncan, that in a brief three or four minutes Duncan came alive. In *Isadora*, Duncan dies with MacMillan's Ballet.

It is all so elaborate and so literal. It has, I understand, been considerably cut from its London version a few weeks ago, and people tell me, much improved. Yet the ballet still does not work on any theatrical level.

Also for the first time, MacMillan is using a totally original full-length score by the composer Rodney Bennett. This is both rare and brave. The music, as one might expect from any knowledge of the composer, is simply clever pastiche, a collage of soundscapes on a painting of history. But it is not at all that bad. Bennett is a very effective contemporary composer des-

Theatre



Sheila Hancock (left), Patrick Stewart, Gemma Jones, Leanne Mellinger

Lighting changes help transform actions into dreams

The Winter's Tale

Stratford

"Your actions are my dreams" exclaims the deranged Leontes to his falsely suspected wife, thus supplying the clue for one notable Stratford version of this play in which the conflicting realities of the jealous husband and innocent wife were signalled by reversals of lighting.

Ronald Eyre's production is also emphatically punctuated with light changes; the difference being that they are used to underline main turning points in the plot. There is an awesome blackout when Leontes rips up the oracle's message; another when Antigonus consigns the baby to the wilds of Bohemia and meets the giant bear in a flash of lightning. If there is one point Mr Eyre wants to get across it is that Leontes has offended the Gods.

It is of no help to the *Winter's Tale* to launch it in the manner of a Greek tragedy, for the simple reason that this draws even more attention to the arbitrary character of Leontes' jealousy. If Apollo is punishing him for an act of

injustice, what rival deity spurred him on to it in the first place? Neither Shakespeare or Mr Eyre has any answer to that, and when the fatal delusion first grips Patrick Stewart it is as though he is having a heart attack.

He gulps for air, loosens his clothes, his arms flail and when he regains equilibrium, his frank smile is replaced with a smugly poisoned mask.

As I hope these details begin to convey, this is a fascinating and grand-scale performance. Mr Stewart is an actor who excels in representing sickness.

In this case, he begins in a state of exultant good health, blowing his own trumpet in the opening pageant, playfully twisting Polixenes' arm in hospitable persuasion, and expressing all of his affections in boyish physical contact, the first sight of what is to come appears when he is lying at Hermione's feet, his face staring out from a mask of shock, his gestures uncoordinated, his speech a heavily

stilted Victorian numbers by Stephen Oliver.

Mr Eyre's view of the play is implicit in the opening pageant in which a carnival monster of Time gives birth to the child Mamillius. Such may indeed be the inner fable; but there remains the task of bringing it to detailed life. And I have rarely seen the Bohemian scenes played with such bland insipidity, every face, beaming, every wit slow, every accent proclaiming the triumph of natural virtue over intelligence.

There is a solid core of experienced RSC players who guarantee continuity of the house style, but there is also a sizeable proportion of new faces (some of them very pretty) whose vocal technique has a long way to go. Gemma Jones' Hermione comes into her own in the final reunion where her still dignity, fluid stateliness, justification, and there is fine verse speaking from Bernard Lloyd and Robert Edlison who would show to better advantage in less of a vacuum.

Irving Wardle

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's paper.

Lyrics of the Heartside

Arts

George Eliot

Soho Polytechnic

The best part of the first half of *Lyrics of the Heartside* is that it makes way for the second half. It may have taken Joseph Mydell as much thought and research to put together the first half, but it does not show. With access to all Paul Laurence Dunbar's poems and letters, he does nothing more than make a quick survey of Dunbar's attitudes to his American life, summarising his reactions to the War between the States, to black life in the South and in the North — and to read well and sagaciously select those passages of writing that illustrate those attitudes.

Mr Mydell is considerably more successful in the second part. He takes hold of the history with a finer elixir and connects it so that it tells something of the man in the actual context of his life. Where he began with simple performance of the material, no more, he begins with a reading that is genuinely informative than any reading might be, he touches the spirit of Dunbar after the interval.

Dunbar, born in 1872, was virtually the first black writer to gain a post of real international note. His lyrics frequently sang with rhythms that still escape most white writers, and his influence extends now to jazz singers, such as Oscar Brown Jr. and to Stevie Wonder. Mr Mydell links those rhythms to his performance with stylish assurance once he stops cataloguing Dunbar's life and gives it a context. The context is

finally a happy one for London, revealing Dunbar's connections to being lionized by British society while still only 25.

That context could make the show a success if London was given to supporting acts that are distinctly "off-Broadway", that aim to find and entertain their natural audience for a packed limited season. London is not noticeably good at that, but there should certainly be an audience that would applaud the obvious rich talents of Mr Mydell at the Arts Theatre.

When Verity Barge was interviewed by Melvyn Bragg on television, shortly before his death, he commented on the number of women writers she had encouraged at the Soho Poly and waited for her response. It was typical that she found it too obvious to be commented on and pushed on to the next subject.

The policy there has always been concerned with fostering talent wherever it was found. There are still many traces of her influence in the programme, yet Margaret Wolfitt's *George Eliot* plays more like a lengthy response to Mr Bragg, detailing the minute struggles of being a woman and being an artist.

Mrs Wolfitt, like Mr Mydell, attempts to reveal the life and reveal the artist, reading from letters and reading from the books. Her portrait of George Eliot does not ever give life to the books, but it does give life to the books. Mrs Wolfitt, like Mr Mydell, attempts to reveal the life and reveal the artist, reading from letters and reading from the books. Her portrait of George Eliot does not ever give life to the books, but it does give life to the books.

Ned Chaillet

Concerts

Salomon Orchestra

St John's

There is something in professionalism that can easily take away the thrill of a pursuit, for which on occasion we may be expected to sacrifice. But it is refreshing to meet an orchestra which custom has not staled and yet which does not make of enthusiasm an excuse for incompetence. The Salomon Orchestra is one such. They take their members from among the many excellent instrumentalists who have chosen to make their careers outside music, and they meet occasionally for crash courses leading to public concerts like the greatly enjoyable one they gave last night.

An orchestra which takes its name from the eighteenth century impresario might be expected to specialize in Haydn, but the Salomon prefer music that gives everybody a good time. Here they began with two full-blooded pieces of love music, Dvorak's *Othello* overture and Wagner's *Wendens Lieber*, then completed their programme with Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony, the noisy and jubilant Prelude to Victory he composed in the summer of 1944.

The vitality of the music making, the sense of people enjoying themselves at their tasks and savouring every moment, made it impossible to ignore any detail of the

performances. Time and again I was struck by the silver clarity of the woodwinds ensemble, by the exultant confidence of the brass, by the astonishing range and exactness of colour and dynamic achieved by the strings. In the Dvorak and Wagner works, particularly, so much was happening and happening with such passion, that one might almost have been listening to Schoenberg. And for unbelievers should perhaps add that this is intended as a compliment.

No less rare was the sensitivity and trust with which the players listened to each other. For instance, the tone of pizzicato violins and sustained windtone in the middle Wagner song, "Im Treibhaus" could have been taken as a model by many a professional orchestra for instance, the surge of radiant feeling at the start of the following number.

No doubt much of the credit for this, and for the liberating discipline of the playing throughout, must go to the conductor Howard Williams.

The other professional participant was the soprano Marie Hayward Segal, who looked like Birgit Nilsson in her prime but sounded like Terese Cahill, her voice still in its Sieglide phase. As yet, too, she has little personality of her own, playing safe with traditional approaches to climaxes and cadences, though her singing was always appealing and quite faultless.

Paul Griffiths

American ballet stars at Sadler's Wells

Martine Van Hamel, Kevin McKenzie and George Christ will be among the dancers appearing with Ballet Stars of America during the American dance season at the Sadler's Wells Theatre. Among the works in their two programmes will be

the world premiere of *Passagende* choreographed by Christian Holder, works by Balanchine, Cranko and Tudor, and *Percussion IV* from Bob Fosse's musical *Dancin'*. The Ballet Stars will be appearing from July 6 to 11.

Gallery

Oskar Kokoschka Memorial Exhibition

Marlborough Fine Art

Among the most distinguished of the artistic exiles from Hitler's Germany to end up on these shores, Oskar Kokoschka spent 15 important years (1933-1953) of his long life here, became a British citizen and maintained close contact with Britain right up to his death last year, at the age of 94. In the select but comprehensive memorial show, his London gallery, Marlborough, have now put on (until July 31), Britain bulks large — especially in the views of the Thames he painted in the 1930s, mostly after he had moved away.

And yet there is something very clearly forbidding us to annex him to British art. First, we are likely to notice that the brilliant colours, and the fast, nervous brush-strokes with which they are applied, do not seem to correspond to any London we know, even in the general imaginative way of the French Impressionists and Fauves who treated the same subjects. Next, we notice that the feeling and the vision are almost exactly identical whether Kokoschka is painting Vienna or Prague before the war, or Switzerland, or (stunningly) Downtown Manhattan 20 years after. In other words, though Kokoschka seems at first to carry a very extrovert, outward-turning artist, responsive to the world around him, when it comes to the point he is another of those who can carry their homes around with them and reinterpret everything in terms of their own inner vision.

Once we appreciate that, we are in a better position to evaluate Kokoschka, or at least to evaluate our responses to him. I have never been very fond of Kokoschka in ones and twos, but I have to admit that he looks far more compelling as a masse (even such a relatively modest mass as this). The

gradual progression in the self-portraits which fill the ante-room is fascinating to behold, even though I persist in liking the earliest (1923), painted in flat blocks of vibrant colour, the best. Other early works, such as the brooding *Lac Léman II* of 1924 or the crisply drawn *Car of 1910*, have the same sort of quality and it must be said for his rather wispy, romantic portrait of the unspeakable Alma Mahler (c.1912) that, while noticeably on the sinister side, it does give one some faint notion of what all those grand artists saw in her.



Oskar Kokoschka self-portrait

As we move into the 1930s Kokoschka finds his mature style and sticks to it thereafter. True, everything is ruthlessly shaped in the same stylistic mould, and yet monotony is avoided: one device, carry on in seeing exactly how it works, how very tiny, incidental variations distinguish a view of Istanbul from one of Chelsea Reach. And there is always gusto, always an infectious delight in the sheer handiwork of painting. The full-scale retrospective which must be somewhere impending should be revelatory.

John Russell Taylor

Richard O'Brien, author of *The Rocky Horror Show*, lead the cast of *Eastward Ho!*, the opening production at the rebuilt Mermaid Theatre. A musical by Howard Shuman, Nick Bicar and Robert Chertow, based on the Jacobean comedy, it opens on July 7.

Karlheinz Stockhausen will be the special guest at next year's Dublin Festival of Twentieth Century Music, where he will conduct the RTE Symphony Orchestra in his *Inori*. New works at the festival, from January 6 to 12, will be provided by Brian Beckett, David Byers, Brian Boydell, Philip Edmondson and Jerome de Bromhead, while other composers featured include Ligeti, Kagel, Henze, Xenakis and Lutoslawski.

Two of Britain's leading young cellists, Robert Cohen and Julian Lloyd Webber, will appear as soloists at the 1981 Schools Prom concerts at the Albert Hall from November 23 to 25. More than 1,000 young musicians, in ensembles ranging from jazz groups to symphony orchestras, will be playing at the Proms. Another professional joining the young performers will be the jazz trumpeter Humphrey Lyttelton.

A new play by Edward Bond, *Restoration*, his first musical, opens at the Royal Court on July 21. Set in eighteenth-century England, to music by Nick Bicar, the comedy is directed by the author with designs by Hayden Griffin and Gemma Jackson. The cast is led by Simon Callow and Irene Handl.

Cinema

John Ford, a monster of acute sensibility

About John Ford by Lindsay Anderson

Piccus, £12, hardback; £5.95, paperback

Almost 30 years ago, when it was not usual to acknowledge artistry in directors who worked in the Hollywood factories, Lindsay Anderson caused a certain shock by describing a film by John Ford which he was reviewing as "Shakespearean". Since then he has not compromised his esteem. Ford is still "one of the great poets of humanity in our time" and his book *About John Ford* leaves no room for challenge.

Anderson's admiration of the artist was severely tested by his meetings over the years with the man, for whom words like "unpredictable" were also gathered inadequate. He recalls, for instance, an incident in 1957 when he shyly showed Ford one of his own early films, *Every Day Except Christmas*. Ford behaved disgracefully, talking throughout the screening, asking foolish questions, acting up worst at the moments which were most obviously the homage of the young director's veneration and study of his own work. "Ford let up for a moment. The accordion music was gentle, the camera moved dreamily over flowers and tilted up into darkness. A moment of dream. Ford snatched in with a knockout blow: 'When do the fish come in?'"

This was pure malice, not insensitivity. Was it some strange professional resentment? Or a test for the disciple's love? The love survived it. Anderson's book is perhaps without parallel as the tribute of one film maker to another.

Ford entered Anderson's life in 1946 when he was 23 and (ignoring the advice of the then *Times* critic that it was the "graveyard of masculinity"), went to see *My Darling Clementine*. He discovered a magic that emanated from "some kind of moral poetry".

The process of discovery for Anderson was prolonged. Many of Ford's early works were lost when he first began to write about him in *Sequence and Signs* and *Scandal*, and have only gradually been rediscovered in the years between.

The peculiar method of *About John Ford* succeeds in conserving the continuing excitement of revelation. In the middle fifties, Anderson "laboured mightily" over a monograph to be published by the British Film Institute. The work reached galley, but then money ran out, and for a quarter of a century it lay idle. Now, along with the correspondence Anderson had at the time with Ford's writers, Frank Nugent, Dudley Nichols and Nunnally Johnson, it provides the centre of the new book.



The record of the first thrill of discovery is supplemented and commented by later experience, rediscoveries, reconsiderations; and the meetings with Ford, to the last visit, six weeks before the end of cancer, when Ford was past pretending that their often abrasive communications over the years did not amount to friendship.

He was a most elusive man. Few of the close collaborators whose testimonies appear in this book seem to feel they ever knew him well. He was a monster, no doubt, using every means — blustering, bullying, tears, wheedling Irish charm, foul-mouthed roistering — to dissemble the acute sensibility which the films cannot conceal. Also, no doubt, to manipulate the people around him, without principle, for the purposes of his creation. What purposes they were, and how fine at their best, the still photographs in this book serve to illustrate.

Anderson spends some time upon Ford's fortunes at the hands of his critics, particularly the exponents of the critical systems that came into vogue in this country and America in the seventies. Ford's grandeur tended to elude the machinery of

Sena Jurinac

Wigmore Hall

Although it is a while since Sena Jurinac last sang in opera here, her London public is faithful, enthusiastic, and numerous. She gave a recital, heard when she gave a recital, with Geoffrey Parsons as her pianist, last night.

The repertoire of her programme abounded in interest. There were three early Wagner songs, one of them the charming, rather Wagnerian, "Bride's prayer on the eve of marriage" (much on the lines of "Oui, d'emain" in *Freischütz*). Her Brahms group included the famous but rarely heard "Regenlieder". There were groups of songs by Mendelssohn and Reger, each with its share of diversity and distinction, as well as some favourite Schubert and Richard Strauss. She began, in English, with Dido's Lament from Purcell's great opera — clear, appreciative English too.

Jurinac is still singing opera, particularly in Vienna (she recently appeared there as Kostelnicka, Feldmarschallin, and the *Ariadne* boy-composer) nearly 40 years after her debut at home in Zagreb. There is plenty of voice, in all registers, only one wobbly note (twice) in a recital lasting over two hours, some dubious intonation, admittedly, but because she was singing out, indeed "bifing" with her voice. The lustrious, peacefully glowing voice she conquered us in 1947 at Covent Garden, with her Cherubino and Dorabella, has changed over the decades: it is still occasionally audible as part of the mature

soprano known from her *Fidelio* and *Marie Thérèse* of more recent years.

In German song she does not create instant atmosphere, fresh and unique, every time, as the greatest Lieder-singers do. There is always shy, gentle charm, a lovely personality, when words and tone, and artistry all combined, as in Brahms's "Von ewiger Liebe", one realized what had been missing earlier. The clinching last verse of Strauss's "Georgine" was marvellously felt and projected, likewise the whole of "Zueignung", with a clean, open, ringing, thrilling top A in the penultimate line.

The best was to come. For her first encore she announced "I hope you recognize", and then sang "Da geht er hin", the Marchallin's monologue from *Der Rosenkavalier*. With a delicious chuckle at "Die alte Frau", indeed with something distinctive, or simply just right, in each cherished phrase. Brahms's *Meine Liebe* just glowed with ardour. Schubert's "An die Musik" was sung with almost violently possessive intensity, uncommon and moving. Then she closed the piano lid, picked up one of the many bouquets, and waved goodnight.

Writing last week from Alderbury about George Benjamin's "A Midwinter", I praised the soprano soloist, but looking at the advance syllabus and not the programme book, identified her wrongly, she was Terese Cahill, and I apologize objectly to her and all readers for my stupid mistake. Last night's singer, I promise you, was Sena Jurinac.

William Mann

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IF IRELAND IS TO BE UNITED

eneyal temporary provision of the Government of Northern Ireland (Irish rule), which is in business in the House of Commons today, falls due at a time when policy in the province is under heavy pressure. Bipartisan support for the Government appears to be on the verge of collapse; the organized resistance in the Maze prison continues to drive the Irish communities (paraphrasing the moment anyway, a new government in Dublin will wish to make its own approach to London; and in the United States, where prejudice vies with ignorance for ascendancy, the courtesies of royalty have become unsafe.

The Irish policy of the Government wins small applause and makes little progress. It does not follow that it is mistaken. The Ulster problem, which has been around for nearly four centuries, is not susceptible of quick or easy solutions. The main structure of the Government's policy fits the situation well. In the absence of provincial institutions Northern Ireland is governed by a Secretary of State, flanked by Ministers from Westminster and an efficient, mostly home-grown Civil Service. The administration is even-handed and widely acceptable, at least as second best. Repeated attempts are made to get devolved government going again, so far without success. The province is assured that there will be no change in its constitutional status without the consent of the majority (the right of self-determination). The forces of the Crown protect the Catholics from the Protestant pogrom and the Protestants from republican coercion. Good relations with the Republic are cultivated, and its interest in what happens in the North is acknowledged.

This is a stable and stabilizing policy. It permits peaceful life to go on in Northern Ireland to a larger extent than is commonly supposed away from there. It is a policy against which only the Provisionals (verbally) rebel. But it lacks movement and the appearance of movement — and that is important in order to keep alive the democratic political process, to give employment to politicians, to assist moderate Catholic representatives to hold the line against violence, to enable the English, Scots and Welsh to believe that the burden is not for ever, and to placate Britain's usually friendly critics abroad. There are several things the Government could do to create a sense of movement without departing from the basis of its policy. It could beef up local government a bit, now reduced to a simulacrum. There is fairly close limit to the scope

for reform here, imposed by the memory and remaining evidence of sectarian discrimination in public housing and jobs and other subtle forms.

The Government could also prepare the ground for the reentry of provincial politicians by introducing PR for the enlarged contingent of MPs from Northern Ireland at the next election; then choose from the new intake two or three of the better spirits and give them ministerial jobs in the province. This would emulate the better Scottish practice. They would have to be excused — the SDLP in particular — from the obligation to support the Government over the whole range of policy outside the province. The doctrine of collective responsibility has become elastic enough for that to be just another innovation.

Before that, however, another attempt should be made to revive provincial government. The mechanism, since it must have the acquiescence of a majority of both communities, will have to incorporate some version of power sharing, if it is to be more than a mere advisory body. The Government will have to lead more strongly with its own proposal this time, and if the party leaders turn them down it should be ready to put the matter to the test of a referendum.

The prospects for getting something off the ground are not particularly encouraging, but in one respect they have improved. In Dr Garret FitzGerald there is a prime minister in Dublin who has not, like his predecessor, written off the venture in advance on the grounds that Northern Ireland is a failed political unit. He sees the necessity for a step by step advance. He may be a better influence than Mr Haughey was on the leadership of the SDLP, which has been veering towards abstentionism.

Two conditions are critical to the success of reviving the political process in the province. First the IRA must be put into retreat again. The key to that at present is the H-block dispute. In spite of the barrage of criticism from the Republic and "anti-colonialists" all over the place, the Government has placed itself well. It has chosen the right ground to stand on: denial of separate political status in name and substance. Its position is morally proof against anything other than bluster. It has been flexible and reformist in the details of the prison regime. And it has just signalled to the potential suicides and their political handlers that there is a way off the hook if they wish to take it. If they do not wish to take it, they must know by now that they

will squander young life in a futile attempt to break the clear resolution of a morally vindictive Government. They must ask their bishops, their bishops have already told them the evil of their ways.

Though murderous, the leadership of the IRA is rational. They will ground arms, as they have before, only when they come to see that they have no good hope of advancing their objectives by a continuation of the campaign. Hope is their oxygen. It must be denied them.

It is therefore with a sinking heart that one learns that the Labour Party may be about to commit itself to Irish unification, and to deny the majority in Northern Ireland any permanent right of self-determination. This is a design for weakness that convinces the Provos that if only they keep going they can beat the British out of Ulster and the Ulster unionists into a unified revolutionary Irish state.

The expulsion or induced secession of Northern Ireland from the kingdom is a little bit more than a "political objective" like raising the school-leaving age or nationalizing the banks. The Ulster question goes to the heart of allegiance and national identity. That is the root issue of political society, and to add to its weakness, importance all other issues. It is something for which moderate men have recourse to extremes. The belief is often expressed that if Ulster unionists were only presented with a firm declaration of intent by the British Government they would become reconciled to the prospect of Irish unity and start making the best of it. That is a false and dangerous assumption. Acquaintance with Ulster and a look at its history leaves little room for doubt what would be the response of Ulster Protestants to any signal from their government that it was intended to manoeuvre them into a united Ireland. It would be to organize themselves to evade the manoeuvre and arm themselves to resist its purpose if necessary. No government should invite that response unless it wishes to evacuate Ulster leaving Ireland in a state of civil war.

The aspiration of a united Ireland is a virtuous and proper one, even for Englishmen. It ceases to be virtuous and proper if it is proposed on any terms other than genuine consent — including the consent of a majority of a million Ulster Protestants. Only the Republic can win that consent, and it has done little enough about it. That too Dr FitzGerald knows better than the Taoiseach he has succeeded.

AN ELECTION WITHOUT AN ANSWER

The lack of a decisive result in the Israeli general election is disappointing. It is true that many of the smaller parties have been swept away, so that the new Knesset will not be plagued to quite the same extent by the proliferation of splinter groups to which Israel's system of proportional representation tends to give rise. But neither the Labour Party of Mr Peres nor the ruling Likud coalition led by Mr Begin has been given a majority by the voters.

The balance of power therefore lies with those smaller parties which did manage to gain seats, chief among them being the religious parties — the National Religious Party, Aguda Israel, and Poalei Aguda Israel. The most likely outcome is that Mr Begin will continue as Prime Minister, but without any strong or stable parliamentary support. The religious parties are not automatically or even necessarily in favour of the right wing policies of the Likud. Apart from a short break in the late 1950s, the religious parties lent their crucial support to all Labour Governments up to 1976. The religious parties do not insist that Israel be ruled in a fundamentalist Jewish way, only that Jewish law should be respected in religious, social, educational and other matters, and by and large they do not interfere in decisions concerning the economy or foreign

affairs. On the other hand, the religious parties have clearly found Mr Begin a congenial companion over the past four years, and warm to his forthright views on the historical rights of the Jewish people. The leader of the National Religious Party, Mr Josef Burg, has become a leading figure in the Begin Cabinet, and is Israel's chief negotiator in the talks with Egypt and the United States over Palestinian autonomy.

It is possible that Mr Begin might now feel able to bring off a surprise peace initiative, much as he responded to President Sadat's overture and paved the way for Camp David. The Americans will certainly be urging some movement in the peace process. But Mr Begin's record in government has been that of a man who firmly believes that Israel has made enough concessions already, and who has no intention of helping to broaden Camp David into a wider peace settlement involving the Palestinians. A further term in office would be a remarkable achievement, given that until six months ago Mr Begin was being written off as a political has-been. But the kind of aggressive and strident electioneering which has brought about this change of fortune does not augur well for the future.

The best hope for Mr Peres, assuming he is unable to reach an agreement with the religious parties himself, is that a new Begin coalition will begin to founder before too long, and will prove unable to survive popular discontent. This is most likely to happen in the economic field, where the Begin Government gave Israeli consumers short-term benefits as an election ploy, but has failed to cope to grips with the mounting problem of inflation. But it could also occur over the question of peace, especially if the Israeli public grows weary of Mr Begin's jingoism, and begins to question its wisdom.

The Arab world has long maintained that one Israeli Government is much like another, and that elections in Israel are therefore without meaning. Quite apart from the fact that this charge cannot be proved, which does not themselves permit free elections — let alone a change of government — there can be no doubt that most Arab leaders do in fact regard Mr Peres as a great deal more flexible than Mr Begin. The prospect of Mr Begin remaining in power will therefore give comfort to those Arab leaders who find him a convenient extremist opponent. It will lead to a further hardening of attitudes in an area which has already suffered enough

Voice abroad

From the President of the Institute of Journalists

Sir, The start of our EEC presidency seems a particularly inappropriate moment for Her Majesty's Government to announce its intention of cutting back the external services of the BBC.

"Nation shall speak peace unto nation" is the motto over the entrance to Broadcasting House. Indeed it is arguable that few other British undertakings have done more to sustain peace and human rights overseas than has the BBC. The £3m a year that the Government intends to excise from its funding is a considerable sum when compared with the £33m a day which we spend on defence. If the Government insists on its proposals against the inevitable tide of protest, seven foreign language services and the sale of recorded broadcasts worldwide will be ended: a price of a single jet fighter.

But will there be a saving at all in strict monetary terms, setting aside the incalculable costs in terms of involvement in ending services to unstable Somalia and censorship-prone Malta and Brazil, to name

three of Mrs Thatcher's targets? 100 members among the 200 employees whose jobs would disappear think not. Vacancies in the media are getting fewer and queues of media workers claiming unemployment benefit are getting longer.

To them it appears that the Government is determined to force an arbitrary cut in expenditure regardless of the net financial result or the very real loss of British prestige, influence and power for peace. Both to our country and to the world which has considered these proposals in an emergency debate, and doubtless also to overseas listeners who rely on the BBC for an objective news service, this is an unkind cut and a false economy. Yours faithfully, GRAHAM R. JONES, Institute of Journalists, Bedford Chambers, Covent Garden, WC2. June 27.

Defence review

From Commander Martin Gwinner, RN (retired)

Sir, The recent Defence review is the second occasion in 15 years that the Admiralty Board have been moved to accept reality through

political initiative by the government of the day.

The cuts in naval expenditure are positive measures. Chatham, our base against the Dutch; Portsmouth, our base against the French; both long overdue for closure. More important is the recognition that the DLR (guided missile destroyer) and the Leander and the Rothesay class frigates have no fighting value, save as expensive and vulnerable helicopter platforms. The Admiralty Board have obeyed the political will that has pressed for shipbuilding, regardless of "state of the art" developments in weapons and sensors. The expenditure on hulls with no fighting value has been scandalous: an equivalent expenditure on weapon systems would have been of immensely greater value to the Royal Navy, Nato and to British industry.

Of longer term concern is the fact that it needs a politician under intense Treasury pressure to move the Admiralty Board towards reality. If they cannot get it right in so in war?

Yours faithfully, MARTIN GWINNER, Ansty House, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Communist tactics in France

From Professor Richard Cobb, FBA

Sir, Dr Wober's letter (June 30) is a timely reminder of the skill employed by members of the French Communist Party in "colonising" institutions. Some of the British members of their patient ability in this respect may be gathered from the manner in which they penetrated research organisations and institutions during the previous regime, at a time when they had no friends in high official posts.

Now, with ministers in crucial areas of the bureaucracy, we may expect to see them extending their permanent influence and patronage, this time from above.

One must cling to what crumbs of comfort that remain: after 1947, the ministries that had been in Communist control for the previous three years were effectively purged. But such a purge would be much more difficult a second time.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD COBB, Worcester College, Oxford. June 30.

Lessons for Tories

From Mr Nicholas Scott, MP for Chelsea (Conservative)

Sir, The Socialist "landslide" in France is a warning to the Tory Party, and makes Chris Patten's rallying cry in your columns (June 26) particularly timely. Like Chris Patten, I am a socialist, but I believe the Government to stick to its fundamental strategy and to have as its first priority the containment of inflation. There are however two matters which need to move up the agenda.

Firstly, the increasing number of unemployed 16- to 17-year-olds presents not only a growing picture of human misery and frustration and of economic waste but also a potential threat to our social cohesion and political stability, as the temptations of crime and political extremism present themselves to youngsters who feel rejected by society. I believe we should set up a special fund to offer all young people in their first two years after school a guarantee of an educational or training opportunity or a role in community service.

Secondly, there is now every justification for some massive reflationary programme (but for a small expansion mainly on construction projects which would provide orders for private industry and jobs for at least some of the unemployed). The psychological impact behind such a move would be immense and it would show the new priority that the Government now gives to reducing unemployment. A priority reflected so markedly in the House of Commons last week by the presence of the Prime Minister, throughout the debate as well as by her *voir de force* in winding it up.

Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS SCOTT, House of Commons, June 29.

Shares for workers

From Mr Richard Wainwright, MP for Colne Valley (Liberal)

Sir, Distinguished Conservatives have in your columns, rightly urged the Government to give high priority to fostering competition in industry by personal share ownership. This should include facilitating forms of industrial ownership new to this country, but successful elsewhere. An example is the Job Ownership Company, in which each worker is required to have a capital stake and which is controlled by its workers on the basis of "one person, one vote". This is modelled on the company structure of successful Mondragon industrial co-operatives in Spain.

Neither our company law nor our tax law adequately accommodates this form of industrial ownership. To make this form of ownership viable, the Companies (No 2) Bill and the Finance Bill are being tabled in the Commons at Report Stage and it is hoped they will receive all-party support.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD WAINWRIGHT, House of Commons, June 30.

Both wet and dry

From Mr Robert Rhodes James, MP for Cambridge (Conservative)

Sir, I was somewhat surprised to discover recently that neither of my parliamentary colleagues do not realise that the origin of "wet" and "dry" politicians was the struggle over prohibition in the United States, nor that perhaps significantly the "wets" won in the end. This crude and somewhat puerile differentiation had some relevance in the disputes over prohibition, but has no relevance when serious political journalists should recognise that it is a grotesque oversimplification of political attitudes and beliefs, and does not say much for their intelligence or political awareness.

Chuck it (Geoffrey) Smith — and all others to whom these long overdue strictures are applied. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, ROBERT RHODES JAMES, House of Commons.

Civil service action

From Colonel G. S. Powell

Sir, In the cause of industrial action, the General's computer staff have decided to cut off my retired pay together with the pensions of other retired members of the public service. Good luck to the cash-flow problems, disturbed by other government computer staff elsewhere. Bank profits should gain from the extra interest we shall have to pay on our extended overdraft.

Otherwise it is difficult to comprehend what the effect of this can be except to increase public hostility towards those responsible. Yours truly, GEOFFREY POWELL, 2 North End Terrace, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire. June 29.

Preserving history in oral records

From Professor T. C. Barker

Sir, A central unit, which would serve some far to encourage the development of oral history interviews, was to have been established, with Department of Education and Science support, some years ago at the British Institute of Recorded Sound. Timothy Eckerley, then in charge of the BBC Sound Archives, and I have been steadily becoming the first chairman of the Oral History Society, both of us governors of the BRS, together with Patrick Saul, its secretary, and Sir Frank Figgures, then chairman of the BRS governing body. Alas, it fell victim to the Barber economy cuts at the beginning of 1974.

Despite the loss of this opportunity, much is now known about the possibilities — and pitfalls — of this work, thanks largely to a number of projects sponsored by the Social Science Research Council's Economic and Social History Committee. David Lance's letter (June 27) also tells of the valuable work undertaken at the Imperial War Museum and listeners to the recent Radio 4 series, "The Sound of the Past", will have heard extracts from the National Maritime Museum's collection. A number of universities and libraries, not to mention other

institutions (notably the BBC) and private individuals have tapes and transcripts of the recollections of people from various walks of life, some of them no longer alive to be interviewed, but apart from the lists published in *Oral History*, the Journal of the Oral History Society, edited from the University of Essex by Paul Thompson, and one or two other compilations, nobody has a clear idea of just how much of this material exists, its quality or of its whereabouts.

The need to track down, evaluate and safeguard existing interviews is even more important now than it was in 1974; and so is the encouragement of further interviewing of business men and trade union leaders as well as politicians and ordinary folk. (The testimony of surviving victims of inter-war unemployment, for instance, all now about 60, or over, would be of historical importance, and not be forgotten that future generations are likely to make considerable use of extracts from the tapes themselves, to bring alive the history of twentieth-century history.)

If the continued need for further economy makes it impossible for the DES to have another look at our modest proposal, is there any possibility of support from the media (who would have an obvious interest) or other private sources?

Yours faithfully, T. C. BARKER, Department of Economic History, London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, WC2. June 29.

Airport development

From Mr Brendan Sewill

Sir, Sir Colin Buchanan (June 22) is absolutely right that new thinking is needed in airport planning. But the need is more urgent than he suggests.

In the next few weeks the Government are due to reach a decision on the application by the British Airports Authority to build a second terminal and second maintenance area at Gatwick. This has so far attracted little attention in the press, as it has been assumed that a second terminal is just an extra building. In fact, however, if this permission is granted, the size of Gatwick in terms of passengers a year will rise from the present 10 million to almost 14 million. This would involve great expense, and the demolition of the ancient village of Charlwood, which has an outstanding Norman church and more medieval hall houses than any other Surrey village.

Looked at more broadly the effect would be to transfer the airport planned for Mairfield (which was to handle 50 million passengers) to the Surrey-Sussex border — the antithesis of sensible planning.

Yet if the Government now give the go-ahead for the Gatwick second terminal, and the Stansted proposals, that is the way we are heading. Unless some government somewhere decides, as Sir Colin suggests, to give first priority to developing the regional airports.

Yours faithfully, BRENDAN SEWILL, Staggers Avon, Charlwood, Surrey. June 22.

Diploma disease

From Mr Ronald Dore

Sir, Messrs Maguire and Ashton (June 23) charge me with offering hypothesis rather than documentation in my book, *The Diploma Disease*. Actually, I prefer both. The "hypothesis" of "Diploma Disease" (as others have done) the various occupational groups have raised the qualification requirements over the last eighty years. I offered the hypothesis with a bit of confirming evidence, but no more to do, with competition between such groups to tap the putative "pool of ability" and maintain their prestige and earning power than with academic educational requirements. Also that some employers as well as professional bodies (eg, the Civil Service) steadily increasing the proportion of university graduates recruited to executive posts were tempted by the middle. Ritualistic and instrumental learners, I suggested, became ritualistic and instrumental workers, although our diploma disease is still in its early stages compared with Japan or Scandinavia.

These last two hypotheses we are beginning at this institute to research systematically, enormously

difficult though such research is. Already it is clear that the hypotheses in my book were too undiscriminating, and that one should expect the experience of exam-dominated schooling to have different effects on children of different levels of ability.

Messrs Maguire and Ashton conclude from their research that my arguments apply only to the "higher echelons of the occupational strata". If they mean the top 25 per cent, I would agree. But it is the concerns of pupils hoping to join that 25 per cent which shape our secondary education — and shape it for those who will take the other 75 per cent of jobs too.

The Maguire-Ashton research on that other 75 per cent of jobs is valuable: we do need to know what employers are looking for. But we should not assume that they are looking for the right things. It may well be that they do not actually seek evidence of curiosity or eagerness to master new skills, and that they tell us something about employers and the declining competence of British industry.

I offered the hypothesis, however, that if the importance of such qualities were widely recognized, we would begin looking at the whole question of qualifications and practical skills in a different light.

Yours faithfully, RONALD DORE, The Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton. June 23.

Pilotage law

From the Director General of the Council of British Shipping

Sir, It is understandable that the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the United Kingdom Pilots' Association (June 24) should think that the use of pilots always increases the cost of shipping.

But this is not necessarily so. An independent report prepared for the Special Committee on Pilotage in 1973 said that "the statistics on the Thames and Tyne failed to show statistically significant differences between the incident records of ships which used licensed pilots and those which did not. What is more, at the official hearings of objections to the proposed new London-by-laws the promoters, even when pressed, could not produce any evidence for suggesting that they would increase safety."

This is not surprising. Those familiar with navigating a ship of any size or sort have the great advantage of knowing its particular handling characteristics, and the masters and mates of ships in the coastal trade frequently have greater experience of navigating into and out of ports than the average pilot. The pilot who does nothing but pilotage may think that his local knowledge outweighs this wider and

greater experience of ships' officers. But so few are the cases where there are cases where he has less experience of going into and out of a regular trader who have the added advantage of navigating their ship at other times.

No wonder that when the proposed new pilotage by-laws for London were published they were opposed, not only by shipping companies operating ships both large and small, but also by the Port of London Authority (PLA), water-side manufacturers and the local branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union. It is not often that all these organizations see eye to eye but they are united in opposing the new by-laws.

Already excessive pilotage charges have contributed to the closure of the Jertoff service from the Thames to the Continent. After reading the recent report of the PLA announcing the loss of £19m in 1980, one may wonder if London can really afford to drive away more business — and all without any proved gain in safety.

Yours faithfully, PATRICK SHOVELTON, General Council of British Shipping, 30-32 St Mary Axe, EC3. June 24.

Useless wealth in parish charities

From Miss Janet Fookes, MP for Plymouth, Drake (Conservative), and Lady Faithfull

Sir, We write to express the hope that the disquiet recently expressed in your columns about charity law and its implications will lead to Government action, as we understand that the Chairman of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations has recently urged.

We are particularly concerned about the many wasted charities which were endowed in the days of the Poor Laws to supplement the sadistic rationing of parish relief. They are numbered in tens of thousands and probably represent about half of all the charities in the country.

In the past 15 years local authorities throughout most of the country have conducted — and paid with public money — for reviews of these charities, some of which have been very detailed and have lasted for several years. The Charity Commissioners have released no information about their findings. We believe, however, that their findings contain simple advice that few of these charities provide effective help to anyone in genuine need; that their combined incomes reach a figure many times larger than the £3m to £4m which the Goodman committee suggested; and that their potential as a source of support for voluntary welfare work is very great indeed.

Little or nothing can be made of these charities so long as each remains confined to a single parish. It is true that most have been so reduced in value over the centuries and are now so small that they are useless, nevertheless, the income involved in voluntary welfare is enormous and most of it is now in the hands of a relatively small minority of trusts whose endowments happen to have included land or property.

The value of such trusts, therefore, has been multiplied many times over and their incomes generally are far larger than can be properly used within one parish. In general, though, the incomes of these charities now bear no relation to the needs which have to be met; trustees may find that they have no more than £250 for "the poor" of a parish of 10,000 while their neighbours have £10,000 per annum for "the poor" of a parish of 250.

Unhappily the Goodman committee showed no sign of having appreciated the significance of this finding, and the Charity Commissioners have ignored it as well. We believe that if the charities in groups of parishes were combined into what have been called neighbourhood trusts, the useless little trusts could make their contribution while the unusably large charities could be spread over a wider population and so be put to effective use in the way that the original donors wished — that is to say, in meeting needs which are not covered by the statutory services or which, if met in time, need never become a charge on them.

At a time when Government money is short it is surely imperative that every available store of private money is used to the best advantage and it is surely little short of criminal that millions of pounds cannot be effectively used.

Legislation is urgently needed to allow neighbourhood trusts to be formed while the matter is still this very large sum of money to provide invaluable support within a local setting.

Yours faithfully, JANET FOOKES, House of Commons, LUCY FAITHFULL, House of Lords.

Price of valour

From Professor P. V. Danckwerts, GC

Sir, Your front-page article "Callantry and service, Labour's only swag" (June 24) implies that holders of the VC and other tax-free annuities of £400. The National Executive Committee of the Labour Party have got their facts wrong. The arguments or decisions about the matter should proceed from the fact that the annuity is £100.

When the VC was instituted at the time of the Crimean War the annuity was set at £10 (for other ranks only); a socially divisive measure. Mr Macmillan was Chancellor he increased it to £100 and it is now paid to all holders of the VC and GC, regardless of military or civilian status (but not to widows or widowers). The value of £100 is now on its way to becoming derisory in its turn.

The whole principle of linking annuities to awards is gallingly open to argument, but any government or opposition which raises the principle should state whether it intends to abolish them, index-link them or allow them, unlike other state pensions, to wither under inflationary trends.

Perhaps the NEC should be reminded that most living holders of these awards were engaged in the great anti-fascist war.

Yours, PETER DANCKWERTS, The Abbey House, Abbey Road, Cambridge.

Beyond our ken

From Mr John Harvey

Sir, I noticed that in your edition of June 29 a science report on quassars appeared on one of the Home News pages. Surely this was a mistake? Quassars should come under Overseas.

Your obedient servant, JOHN HARVEY, Kent's Field, Southeast, East Sussex. June 30.

Topless in 'The Times'

From Mr T. Jagger

Sir, Sir Robin MacLellan (June 30) has curious interests. The height of a man's forehead is an accident of birth, but the way he knots his tie is an outcome of calm deliberation and mature reflection. The tie is equally with the shine on a man's shoes, the clearest indication of his character. Never trust a man whose tie is habitually an inch below his collar.

Yours, T. JAGGER, 39 Rocks Lane, Barnes, SW13. June 30.

Living standards
continue
to slide, page 19

Business News

THE TIMES July 2 1981

Keep down the cost of industrial building

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- Stock markets**
FT Index 548.7 up 3.9
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- Sterling**
\$1.9030 down 275 points
Index 93.1 down 1.0
- Dollar**
Index 108.8 up 0.8
DM 2.4092 up 147 pts
- Gold**
\$ 425.50 down 52
- Money**
3 mth sterling 12 1/4-12 1/2
3 mth Euro \$ 17 1/4-17 1/2
6 mth Euro \$ 17 1/4-17 1/2

IN BRIEF

Gas profits may take £70m knock

The recession, and concessions made on industrial gas prices, in the Budget, could knock £70m off profits and prevent the British Gas Corporation reaching its financial target. MPs on the all party public accounts committee were told by Department of Energy officials yesterday.

Sir Donald Maitland, Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy, said that the firm's four year £4,000m investment programme the corporation would probably have to draw down its deposits of £300m with the national loans fund, perhaps by as much as £200m over the coming two years.

The corporation would, he said, "move into a slightly negative cashflow period".

TUC offers to help exports

The TUC has offered to use its labour contacts abroad to foster better international trade relations and to help industry win new export contracts. The suggestion came during yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, welcomed the TUC initiative and said the initiative would be pursued in future discussions between Foreign Office and TUC officials.

1,500 jobs to go

More than 1,500 jobs are to be lost through more plant closures involving three separate companies. They are motor components manufacturer Rothery Owen Holdings, at Darlington, West Midlands (950 jobs), the Newforge cannery at King's Lynn, Norfolk (350) and the Rohn and Hass (412) acrylic monomer production plants at Teesside and Tyneside (280).

Fewer strikes

Good company-union relationships and willingness by workers to adapt to new methods have helped the Dundee-Arbroath area to achieve a record of three times fewer strikes than the United Kingdom average, according to an independent study commissioned by the Scottish Development Agency, and covering more than 70 manufacturers.

£1m ICL order

English China Clays, which claims to be the world's largest china clay producer, has ordered £1m worth of equipment from International Computers Limited to be installed in September at the company's base at St Austell, Cornwall. It includes four computers, and a Viedata system.

Insurance price war

British motorists are benefiting from increasingly fierce competition between insurance groups. General Accident, the biggest motor insurer, declared yesterday that it plans to make no increase in premiums on its annual review date of August 1.

Textile imports

Britain will be seeking improvements in the effectiveness of the Multi Fibre Arrangement which regulates textile imports, Mr John Biffen, Trade Secretary, said at the Trade Policy Research Centre last night. He criticized Japanese policy, and said Japan would be under pressure to ease exports to Europe.

Bid rejected

Conoco, America's ninth largest oil company, has emphatically rejected the bid from Seagram under which the Canadian distiller would pay £2,350m (£1,342m) for a 41 per cent stake in the company.

Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 67.66, down 9.22 on Wall Street yesterday. The S & P 500 exchange rate was 1.14465 while the £ = SDR rate was 0.599450.

Nuclear team to go on with PWR design

By Rupert Morris

The Government took two positive steps yesterday to provide some much-needed impetus for the British nuclear industry. It appointed Mr Frank Gibb as chairman of the National Nuclear Corporation to succeed Mr Denis Rooney, who resigned on May 19. It also set up a task force to produce design proposals for the Pressurized Water Reactor, intended to be completed in time for a public inquiry late next year into the proposed PWR nuclear station at Sizewell in Suffolk.

The establishment of the task force, to be led by Dr Walter Marshall, chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority, represents both a clear endorsement of the PWR, which has always been strongly favoured by the Prime Minister, and a recognition of problems it has encountered.

Mr Gibb's appointment will cause little surprise, although the fact that it will be part-time while he remains joint managing director of Taylor Woodrow may not please officials of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

But while it may not halt the internal debate over PWRs which is thought to have caused Mr Rooney's resignation, Mr Gibb's appointment will at least ease the uncertainty. He is 54, has been with Taylor Woodrow for 33 years, and has been acting chairman of the NNC since Mr Rooney left.

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, announced yesterday that he was establishing the task force under Dr Marshall in response to representations from both the NNC and the CEBG, who were worried at the lack of progress.

Mr Howell said in reply to a Parliamentary question: "I am anxious that work on the development of the design for the first British PWR should proceed as quickly as possible, and that the full meeting of the United Kingdom safety requirements... The Government also wishes to see more use made of the advice and experience on PWR technology available from Bechtel, Westinghouse and the other leading suppliers to the Energy Authority (part of the NNC)".

Dr Marshall said yesterday that recent speculation had produced two alternative views on the PWR, which became highly controversial after an accident



Mr Gibb: appointment ends uncertainty

at Three Mile Island, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. These were, on the one hand, that the Government was prepared to buy the PWR "off the shelf", and on the other, that by the time it was ready to conform to British safety regulations, it would cease to be economical and would have to be dropped.

"Both of these views are patently ridiculous," Dr Marshall said. "The truth lies somewhere in between".

He added: "I think we must have all our decisions made this summer, so that we can set about describing the design in words and drawings, to present to the nuclear installations inspectorate. The time-consuming task is writing it up, and proving the safety case".

Dr Marshall said he saw his role as that of a "scientific technocrat" at the head of a team drawn from the CEBG, the NNC, UKAEA and the American companies Bechtel and Westinghouse.

Recent doubts about the PWR have been fuelled by reports by Friends of the Earth, a Commons Select Committee and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, all of which criticized the inaccuracy of demand forecasts, and more recently by safety questions raised by Sir Alan Cottrell, former government chief scientist and senior metallurgist at the UKAEA.

["The United Kingdom used almost 6 per cent less energy in the three months to the end of May compared with a year earlier, according to provisional figures issued by the Department of Energy.

Deal makes Saatchi 'largest UK ad agency'

By Margaret Pagan

Saatchi & Saatchi yesterday clinched a takeover deal that it claims puts it ahead in the battle to be the largest advertising agency in the United Kingdom—and the largest national agency in Europe.

It is paying £4m for the private Age Synergy, which controls one of the fastest growing agencies in the country, Dorland Advertising. This adds accounts such as Heinz, Cadbury-Schweppes and Rolls-Royce to the list of Saatchi clients, which include the Conservative Party. Saatchi masterminded the advertising campaign that helped Mrs Margaret Thatcher to power at the last election.

Saatchi says the acquisition means that for the first time in 80 years a British-owned company leads the advertising field in the United Kingdom. The move also gives it a strong base for entry into the United States market.

Dorland, run by Mr Eric Garrett, was cited last year by M&A, the industry's monitor of billings, as the fastest growing of Britain's top 10 agencies.

Founded in 1905, it reported pre-tax profits for the year to December of £47,000 on turnover of £5.5m. Last year, after an attributable loss from discontinued activities, Age Synergy says it would have made £712,000. Net tangible assets in December were £333,000, plus a revaluation surplus from properties of £21,000.

Saatchi, which earlier in June saw pre-tax profits 20 per cent ahead at £1.68m, is paying £1.5m on completion, a further £2.5m in October 1982, and up to £1.6m, dependent on billing figures for this year and next, in 1983.

The £1.5m is to be satisfied by issuing 504,838 shares to be placed at 300p. Shares in the market gained 2p to 318p on the news. Phillips and Drew, the group's brokers, also have placed £1,000,000 towards subsequent payments. The £2.6m balance is to be funded from existing resources.

Other agencies in Age Synergy's subsidiary, Garrett Dorland Crawford Holdings, are Crawford in London and the Brookline Haxham network with offices in London, Manchester, Leicester and Newcastle.

The agency employs 400 people and is to remain independent of Saatchi. Combined billings for the two agencies are expected to top £15m.

Mr Simon Mellor, of Saatchi, said that expenditure on advertising continues to be remarkably resilient despite the recession.

Writing on the wall for roadside advertising Call to scrap British Posters

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor



Spreading the word here is a poster displayed at one of the London & Provincial sites.

Action to curb monopoly practices which have restricted competition and partly led to high profits in the £60m-sales roadside poster advertising industry is being urged by Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs.

A report yesterday from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission called for British Posters, a joint marketing company owned by 10 key poster contractors, to be scrapped. Mrs Oppenheim said later that she was considering how best to achieve this.

She is also asking Mr Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, to seek undertakings from two of the industry's trade associations on the dropping of strictures

against members bidding for poster sites already in the use of another member.

The commission found that codes of conduct in an earlier version could be seriously competitive and that recently revised codes were also likely to have some effect on restricting competition.

The operation of British Posters, whose members control nearly 80 per cent of poster sites in the United Kingdom, has had a significant effect on the level at which prices have been set, the commission found.

British Posters' members include the two leading poster contractors, accounting between them for about half of all poster space. They are Mills and Allen (part of Mills and Allen Inter-

national and London and Provincial Posters (part of Reed International).

Other members with substantial business are Arthur Maiden (a private company), British Transport Advertising (jointly owned by British Rail and National Bus), and Moore O'Ferrall.

As a dominant supplier of short-term promotion packages, British Posters had been in a strong position to establish price levels that maximized returns to its members, the commission said, adding: "We are satisfied that the operation of British Posters has led to a more rapid and orderly upward adjustment in prices generally than would otherwise have taken place and to more consistency in pricing between individual members."

The complex monopoly represented by members of the two main trading associations—British Poster Advertising Association and Solus Outdoor Advertising Association, which between them accounted for more than 80 per cent of the poster market—also tended to increase poster contractors' profits by keeping rents paid to landowners lower than they might have been.

The commission was concerned at the level of poster contractors' profits even though these did not arise solely through the monopoly situation, prices being dictated mainly by those of other media. Roadside Advertising Services, Monopolies and Mergers Commission (Commons paper 365, HMSO, £5.70).

Tories set for attack on bank lending

By Bryan Appleyard

A study group has been set up by the Conservative backbench industry committee to assemble evidence for an attack on the lending policies of British banks.

The group is to report by the autumn before the next session of Parliament, so that recommendations can be considered during the session.

The key to the group's brief is the belief that British industry has been handicapped by excessively short-term lending policies adopted by the banks. It has already produced a working paper which suggests that a minimum of £5,000m of new lending annually is required to start correcting the balance and creating new employment.

The paper states that total bank lending to industry in Japan stands at 96 per cent of gross national product. In West Germany the figure is 40 per cent. In France 35 per cent, but in the United Kingdom it is only 20 per cent.

The paper calls for an investigation into ways the Government can promote extended term lending by the banks and ways of giving lending institutions the same kind of favourable status under which building societies lend to house buyers.

It also suggests a big expansion of the loan guarantee scheme, which could be extended to £1,000m annually, compared with the annual ceiling of £50m on the current pilot scheme. Latest figures from the Department of Industry show that guaranteed loans totalling £2.4m have been negotiated since its inception a month ago.

Mr Michael Grylls, committee chairman, said he was interested in bringing medium-sized companies into the mainstream of economic policy. He hoped to do this by raising the maximum guaranteed loan available to £250,000 instead of £50,000 and present and by changing bank lending policies.

Berisford bid lapses just short of success

By Michael Prest

S. & W. Berisford, the commodity traders, failed to win the £1m on its defence, including the cost of submissions to the Monopolies Commission.

Mr Gordon Percival, Berisford's finance director, said his company spent £250,000 on newspaper advertisements. He would not comment, however, on whether Berisford will sell all or part of its holding.

One important consideration that will influence both companies' policies is whether Berisford will return in a year with another bid.

Market sources said last night that Berisford's failure in the long, hard-fought struggle was probably due to its reluctance to pay more than the 33p a share it offered.

his management's policy. He said that British Sugar spent about £1m on its defence, including the cost of submissions to the Monopolies Commission.

Mr Gordon Percival, Berisford's finance director, said his company spent £250,000 on newspaper advertisements. He would not comment, however, on whether Berisford will sell all or part of its holding.

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Braniff to repay \$40m debt

From Frank Vogl

Washington, July 1
Braniff International Airlines, the seventh largest airline in the United States, was unable to repay a \$40m (£21m) debt due today, but it has reached an agreement with its lenders to restructure its debts, which total more than \$600m.

The airline, based in Texas, will not have to make any interest or principle payments until February 1982, under the pact it concluded today with 37 banks and insurance companies. The pact called for Braniff and its lenders to work out an agreement in principle for debt repayments by early autumn and to have completed all detailed work on restructuring the airline company's debts by February 1.

Mr John Casey, Braniff chairman, announced the agreement today and said: "We are optimistic that an acceptable restructuring agreement will be negotiated in the near future."

Mr Casey became chief of Braniff in January, replacing Mr Harding Lawrence.

Braniff had losses in 1980 of \$131m on revenue of \$1,107m. In the first quarter of this year the airline lost further \$24m. The airline was for many years among the most flamboyant in America; its largely Boeing fleet was painted in many colours and some of its aircraft were painted in the United States flag's colours.

Mr Lawrence sought to make Braniff the largest airline in the nation and when airline fare deregulation was approved by the United States Civil Aeronautics Board in 1978, the Dallas airline announced 16 new routes. Soon thereafter it offered flights on the Concorde from Dallas to Washington. It lost money, including the new routes, including the Concorde one. By the end of last year it was clear that the airline had overreached itself. It had 14,200 employees then; today it has 11,500 and fewer routes.

Receivers called in to footwear company

By Peter Wainwright

Norvic Securities, the loss making Norwich shoe manufacturer and retailer which apparently won a last minute reprieve from Barclays, its bankers five months ago yesterday, had receivers and managers appointed.

Mr Charles Metcalf, chairman, said that despite the substantial support of Barclays Bank, they cannot now continue to trade and maintain the group in its present form.

Mr Michael Jordan and Mr A. Stone of City Gully, the City of London accountants specializing in receivership and liquidation, have been appointed by the bank as joint receivers and managers.

Norvic employs nearly 1,100 people in Norwich and Mans-

field. In its heyday there were more than 2,000.

The two Norwich MPs, Mr John Garrett of Norwich South, and his fellow Labour MP, Mr David Ennals, who pursued Barclays to stay its hand in February, issued a joint statement.

They said: "Our hope is that the Receivers will be able to maintain production and minimize redundancies and find a buyer or buyers for the plant and the jobs that go with it."

The accounts of Norvic released three weeks ago contained an auditors' qualification. The group depended on adequate finance continuing to be made available.

Financial Editor, page 19

IBA cash compromise over Trident split

By David Hewson



Yorkshire Television Holdings
Capitalization—£12.6m
Principal shareholders:
Banc 25 per cent
Pearson Longman 25 per cent
Trident 15 per cent
Yorkshire Post Newspapers 10 per cent
Three further investors at 5 per cent each or less
Mr. Roshchild held 15 per cent for subsequent placing with Jocal Yorkshire interests.



Tyne Tees Television Holdings
Capitalization—£5m
Principal shareholders:
Vaux Breweries 20 per cent
Trident 20 per cent
Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation 15 per cent
United Newspapers 7.5 per cent
Telefusion 7.5 per cent
Three other investors, so far unnamed, will each hold 5 per cent.

The long-running wrangle over the future of Yorkshire and Tyne Tees television franchises will be over next month if, as expected, an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in Trident, the group which owns both companies, decides to sell them to form two new companies.

When Trident's shareholders meet on July 23, they are expected to "rubberstamp" a formula already approved by the Independent Broadcasting Authority—a remarkable compromise between the IBA and the company.

The IBA has been at loggerheads with Trident since last December, when it ordered the company to divest itself of a majority holding in both companies. Its disagreement with the company, centred on Yorkshire, which Trident claimed would be unprofitable if it operated as a separate company.

At the same time, Mr Thomas said that Trident, which had been formed by the merger of Yorkshire and Tyne Tees, would look abroad for its future growth.

The company is disappointed with results from its leisure park interests, which include the Windsor Safari Park, and does not intend to become further involved in the British entertainment field.

Mr Thomas said that it was looking at two European television satellite broadcast projects and wanted to expand its

film distribution business in America as well as investigate other audio-visual projects there.

Trident has done a lot better out of the divestment exercise than it expected originally. The new Yorkshire company will pay rent to it for the use of technical assets for five years. In the first year this will be £1.6m, with an estimate for the five-year period of £5.5m.

It will also pay Trident for the use of studios for eight years, a total of £8.09m, with an option to buy the studios for £11m up to January 1, 1985.

Tyne Tees, the new company, will buy the existing studio buildings for £3m, next December and pay an estimated total rent for technical assets of £2.5m over the next five years. It will also pay a minimum total rent of £3.25m for eight years' use of new studios, with an option to buy at an indexed cost of construction, estimated at the moment at £2.5m.

Trident said it expected the divestment to increase the net worth of the company by some £2.5m.

The principal shareholders of Yorkshire will be the brewers Bass, publishing group Pearson Longman, Trident, and Yorkshire Post Newspapers. Tyne Tees' main shareholders will be Sunderland brewers Vaux, Trident, the institutional investors' body Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, United Newspapers and Telefusion, the television rentals group.

Lake View Investment Trust Ltd

14% IN 1980

30% IN 1981

FAR EAST INVESTMENT DOUBLED

The net asset value per Lake View share rose 45% from 131.6p to a new record level of 189.0p during the year to 31st March 1981. Total resources of £27m and earnings per share of 4.52p were both at record levels. The dividend is increased for the ninth successive year.

At the year end, the Far Eastern content of Lake View's portfolio had more than doubled from 14% to 30%. This trend is expected to continue in the current year but a balanced spread of interests, both geographically and by industry, will be maintained.

To obtain a copy of the Lake View Report and Accounts, please contact:

John Govett & Co. Limited
Management Group
Winchester House, 77 London Wall,
London EC2N 1DE. Tel: 01-588 5630

PRICE CHANGES

Rises		Falls	
AB Elec	10p to 126	Arb-Latham	10p to 345p
Berco	5p to 39p	Ass New	10p to 335p
Davies & Newman	10p to 124p	Atlantic Assets	5p to 250p
Farnell Elec	10p to 53p	British Sugar	9p to 331p
Gt Univ Stores	12p to 448p	Exel Grp	10p to 205p
Racal Elec	8p to 426p	First Castle	5p to 117p
Sainsbury J	12p to 434p	Gen Accident	4p to 350p
Taylor Woodrow	5p to 539p	Granges	5p to 246p
Unilever	8p to 588p	Rediffusion	5p to 184p
Union Discount	10p to 468p	Sun Alliance	10p to 894p



Industry leaders at the Business Perspectives conference yesterday.

Industrial survival—Italian style

By Melvyn Westlake

A leading industrialist yesterday accused the Government of conducting a series of experiments, especially monetary experiments, without regard to the policies of other countries.

Speaking at a conference in London yesterday, Sir Campbell Fraser, chairman of Dunlop Holdings, chose the British steel industry to illustrate his point. While the British Steel Corporation has been reducing manpower and output, the Italian steel industry has been increasing its capacity, he said.

Twelve years ago Britain produced 28 million tonnes of steel a year; now it has a capacity of 15 million tonnes. Italy, on the other hand, had raised its capacity to 26.5 million tonnes. A reasonable man might ask how it was that in the same market circumstances one country's industry—which is not notably efficient—can expand, and another's industry contract, Sir Campbell said.

He was speaking at a conference on the "Revitalization of Britain's industry and economy", organized by Business Perspectives.

The example of steel presented the classic dilemma that faced companies in hard times, whether to reduce their size or grow out of the problem. His personal observation over many years showed him that the Italian way was to expand

whenever possible, without too much regard to profitability. The message for Britain was clear, Sir Campbell said.

Unless the Government was extraordinarily careful in what it did, it was perfectly possible that Britain would end up importing other countries' unemployment. Sir Campbell also noted that some years ago Italy passed a law which said that selected Italian companies could receive funds from banks at half the going rate of interest. Many Italian companies had gearing ratios so high that they would be regarded as candidates for liquidation by British standards. But, miraculously, the companies continued in business.

If Britain did not take the Italian practice into account, it could find itself with perfectly good companies going bankrupt while their Italian counterparts went on living.

Another paper prepared for the conference by Professor J. K. Galbraith argued that the "supply side" economics championed by President Reagan's Administration in the United States, was simply a way of giving more money to the rich by reducing their taxes. It was not possible for the affluent in America to plead for lower taxes merely because they would like to have more money to spend and enjoy, the paper

noted. Instead some justification had to be found for putting their taxes. A larger social value had to be ascribed to the act.

The reinvigoration of the American economy was the case currently being made on behalf of those who, in a perfectly normal way, would like to have more money at their disposal. However, the notion that tax cuts would herald some burst of "supply side" energy belonged to the realm of not-altogether-harmless fantasy, the professor's paper said. Professor Galbraith did not attend yesterday's conference.

Another speaker, Mr Peter Cazalet, a managing director of British Petroleum and chairman of BP Oil International, argued against any attempt to curb rapid exploitation of Britain's North Sea oil and gas. He said that the country could then grow strong on the money coming in from overseas customers. He said that Britain clearly had a comparative advantage in energy production, and should exploit it to the full.

Two British companies in £150m oil rig deal

By Nicholas Cole

Contracts worth a total of £150 million have been won by two British companies for work on the North Sea oil floating production system expected to go into operation in the Hutton Field 90 miles north-east of the Shetlands during 1984.

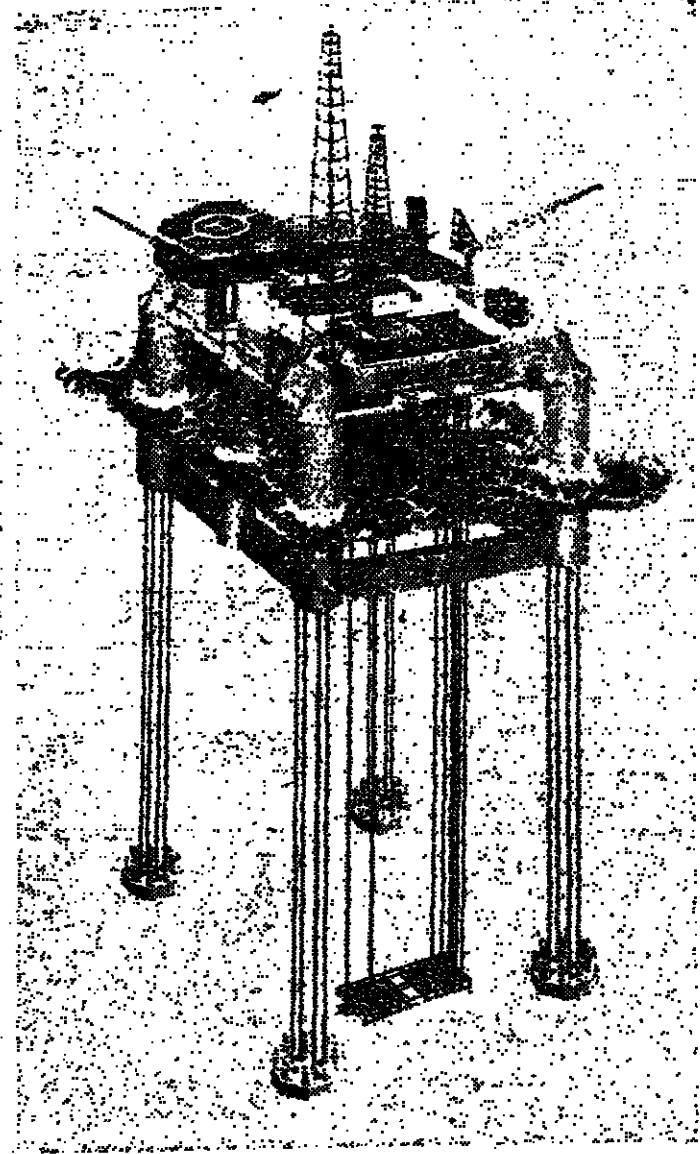
The contracts are for the deck and hull sections of the 46,900-tonne tension leg platform that will be used in the world's first commercial application of the system, was hailed yesterday by Mr Hamish Gray, the Energy Minister, as a breakthrough in offshore technology.

The deck structure will be built by McDermott Scotland at Ardersier, on the Moray Firth, and the hull section by Highlands Fabricators at Inverness, the Moray Firth. The orders, gained against competition from other yards in the United Kingdom and continental Europe, will ensure employment for 3,400 workers until well into next year. Work will start immediately.

Award of the contracts was announced in London and Aberdeen by the operator, Conoco (UK) and its Hutton Field partner, the British National Oil Corporation, Gulf Oil, Amoco (UK) Exploration, Gas Council (Exploration) Mobil North Sea, Amerasia UK and Texas Eastern North Sea. The main interests in the field are held by Conoco, BIOC and Gulf Oil, each with a 20 per cent share. Total value of contracts awarded to date is an estimated £310 million.

Mr Harry Sager, chairman of Conoco United Kingdom, said the Hutton project marked an important departure from conventional methods.

"It does not depend, like



Floating rig design tethered to the seabed.

most systems used today, on big structures sitting on the seabed. So it opens up a new era of oil development in deep water territory that might otherwise be beyond our reach. We think we could now go down in excess of 1,500-2,000 feet," Mr Sager said. The Hutton Field is in 485ft of water.

Five years' engineering effort have gone into the project, which gives the British offshore industry the opportunity to take a world lead, Mr Sager said. The floating platform will be tethered to the seabed, under tension, by 16 vertical legs—four on each corner—made of 10½ inch diameter steel tubes.

Reluctant Bonn backs steel plan

The West German cabinet has approved the package of measures to curb steel industry output and subsidies, agreed by EEC industry ministers last week.

An economics ministry spokesman said in Bonn, that approval was given at yesterday's cabinet session, despite continued misgivings. The measures become effective immediately.

At the EEC summit, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt expressed dissatisfaction with the agreement which foresees a dismantling of state aid to steel at a slower rate than that sought by Bonn.

The final cut-off date for subsidies to steel means that Germany's almost unsubsidized steelmakers will have to continue to compete against heavily supported producers in other EEC countries until the end of 1985.

Datsun name 'may be dropped'

A report that Nissan Motor Company, the Japanese car maker, is to start selling its cars under the Nissan name rather than Datsun, has been criticized by the company's American dealers. In Tokyo, a Nissan spokesman was quoted as saying a change from Datsun was under consideration, but no final decision has been made.

Australian oil probe

Barrick Petroleum (Australia) will spend over Aus \$30m (£17.5m) on oil and gas exploration in Western Australia over the next three years. Saudi multi-millionaire Adnan Khushoggi has a controlling interest in the company, which has previously been involved in oil and gas exploration in the United States and Canada.

Japan 'on upturn'

The latest set of statistics indicates that Japan's economy will pick up in coming months, according to the Economic Planning Agency in Tokyo. Japan's economy has apparently bottomed out, the agency says, and will start recovering fully in the near future.

Pipeline call

Eighteen Congressional Representatives and 15 Senators urged President Reagan to call for a multi-millionaire Adnan Khushoggi to build a natural gas pipeline between Siberia and Western Europe.

Swiss liquidity rise

Swiss banking liquidity rose sharply in the final third of June according to figures in the Swiss National Bank's latest statement from Zurich. Clearing accounts of Swiss banks, commerce and industry rose to SwFr11,242m (£2,810m).

Nuclear fuel pact

Japan and the United States have reached agreement for joint research into the production of high quality, economical fuel for fast breeder reactors, the semi-official Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation said in Tokyo.

Poor sugar crop

Mexico's sugar production in the 1981-82 harvest will be at least 150,000 tons less than forecast, because of heavy rains, according to the executive secretary of the national sugar workers union.

Dutch import price up

The index of Dutch import prices rose an unadjusted 1.3 per cent to 159 in April (1975=100) from 157 in March, and was 14.4 per cent above April 1980.

Aid for Sri Lanka

Lending countries, attending a World Bank sponsored group conference in Tokyo, have pledged to extend Sri Lanka \$830m (£434m) in economic aid.

Portugal's IMF loan

Portugal will shortly sign for a \$1,000m (£523m) loan from the International Monetary Fund, the finance ministry said in Lisbon.

Lloyd's rebels ready to form breakaway group

By Richard Allen, Insurance Correspondent

A group of Lloyd's members is attempting to set up a new body of underwriting names to rival the External Names Association formed under the chairmanship of Lady Middleton last year.

The new association is planned ostensibly to select eight external representatives to a new ruling council envisaged under the Lloyd's Bill on self-regulation.

But the move throws into sharp focus the deep divisions of opinion over various aspects of the Bill which, if successful, could dictate how Lloyd's conducts its affairs for the rest of the century.

Behind the move is a breakaway faction from the External Names Association. The group,

led by Mr John Rew, opposed a decision by Lady Middleton's supporters to back a petition to Parliament seeking extensive changes in the Bill.

The petition was instrumental in bringing about parliamentary demands for amendments.

Lloyd's 20,000 membership is to vote on July 17 on whether to accept the demands or risk the Bill being dropped from the parliamentary schedule.

In a letter seeking support for the new association from underwriting agents, the rebel group declares: "We and a substantial number of people who support us believe that her (Lady Middleton's) association is unrepresentative and will only have a brief existence."

General Electric to buy new Thorn scanner

By Bill Johnstone

Picker International, the medical electronics subsidiary of General Electric, has agreed in principle to acquire nuclear magnetic resonance technology from Thorn EMI to be used for medical diagnosis.

No financial details of the arrangement have been disclosed except that it was "a substantial consideration".

Under the agreement, Picker International also will acquire a scanner that uses the technology and is under test at Hammersmith Hospital in London.

The technique, called NMR, is an old technology that has been given a new application. It has been used for years industrially for testing materials, among other applications, but this is the first time that it will be used on a large scale for medical diagnosis.

NMR surrounds the body with a magnetic field and monitors the radiation inherent in the body.

Instruments are now sensitive enough to measure these low levels of radiation, which are used to form a picture of the body.

Unlike the body scanner, which was invented by Thorn EMI and which in 1972 launched the company into medical electronics on a grand scale, the NMR technique does not penetrate the body with X-rays.

The new NMR scanners are expected to be on the market within 18 months.

Energy Agency fears oil price explosion

By Frances Williams

Another oil price explosion is imminent, unless Western industrialized nations take tougher action to cut their consumption, the International Energy Agency (IEA) says.

The warning comes in its 1980 review of member countries' energy policies and programmes.

The industrialized countries have made considerable progress in conserving oil, but their efforts need to be intensified to guard against a recurrence of tight oil markets, which could lead once again to intense price pressures, the agency says.

The IEA cautions that the present world oil glut, caused by falling world demand, and the resulting downward pressure on prices, is unlikely to persist after the end of the year.

Required imports by IEA's 21 member countries are forecast at 24 million to 25 million barrels a day throughout the 1980s, similar to the 24.5 mbd in 1979. This compares with increasing demand from the rest of the world, which will put upward pressure on prices.

On the basis of member country submissions, the agency calculates that there will be a shortfall of 4.2 million barrels a day in 1985 equivalent to 10 per cent of IEA oil demand or 16 per cent of IEA imports.

The calculation assumes that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will produce about 30 mbd, rather than the 1979 production of 31.5 mbd, but considerably more than

present estimated levels of 22 mbd.

The IEA believes that net imports of oil could be cut to 19-20 mbd in 1990. But, assuming economic growth of around 3 per cent a year, this would mean slashing oil use per unit of gross domestic product by 37 per cent over the decade and increasing domestic energy supplies by 26 per cent, including a 50 per cent rise in coal production and a 170 per cent increase in nuclear supplies.

Failure to meet these objectives could result in another oil price shock and dampen economic growth in the 1990s, the IEA says.

A third of Western Europe's oil refining capacity, much of which is operating at record losses, may never be used again, Mr William S. Barrack, chairman and chief executive of Texaco, said yesterday (Edward Townsend writes).

Europe's capacity for crude oil distillation is seven million barrels a day greater than present consumption.

Mr David Howell, the Energy Secretary, yesterday appeared to contradict the recent British National Oil Corporation's pledge to keep North Sea prices pegged to Saudi Arabian levels (Anne Warden writes).

He told an oil conference in London there was no reason why United Kingdom prices should not rise to the appropriate market level. "Since the Government is committed to the operation of the market, that is, it would expect to happen."

Business appointments

Thorn EMI new board member

Lord Brabourne has joined the board of Thorn EMI in a non-executive capacity.

Mr Peter Rowland has been made secretary to the TSB Group.

Mr R. A. Bray is the new managing director of natural gas, Esso Petroleum, Mr B. A. Sachs becomes executive director with responsibility for natural gas.

Mr Roger Wain is now senior vice-president and general manager for Great Britain of the Imperial Life Assurance Company of Canada.

Mr A. B. Hedgecock has become an executive director of Willis Faber and Dumas.

Mr Norman Blegg has joined the board of Banco de Bilbao.

Mr Jim Mann has been made director of the industrial product division of Johnson Wax.

Mr Jerry Bartlett is now a director of Tarmac National Construction.

Mr Jonathan M. Fry has become chief executive of Burnish Speciality Chemicals, formed as a division of Burnish Oil Trading.

Viscount Colville and Mr J. A. Sibley have joined the board of Thames Television.

Mr R. M. Godfrey has been made a divisional director and takes over the duties of plant director.

Mr Paul Sauter becomes chief executive of Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

Mr John Ramsden is now a managing director of Selsdon (Management).

Mr J. P. Clay is to join the board of Globe Management, a subsidiary of Globe Investment Trust.

Mr David Korda has joined the main board of Film Finance.

Mr E. A. A. Briell has been made a director of Group 4 Total Security, Ireland.

Dr A. J. S. Polwell has joined Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Sons, as director and general manager of Ringier Kings.

Mr A. H. Westropp has joined the board of the Sussex Mutual Building Society.

Mr Dennis Westery has become a non-executive director of KCA International.

Messrs F. C. Jeffrey and Mr R. Whitmore have joined the board of the Reliance Fire & Accident Corporation.

Scarbury, production director; and Mr Jeff Brydon, sales director, of British Water Treatment Company.

Mr Kenneth Bacon is to join the MEL Division of Philips Electronics and will become managing director on January 1, 1982, on the retirement of Mr Brian Terry.

Mr Reider Niemi has been made managing director of Seaway Diving (UK).

Mr John Dickson has joined Watney Mann National Sales as sales director.

Mr Chris Adams, Mr John Bowman, Mr John Dave and Mr Ashley Meredith have all become partners of Thomson McLintock and Company, chartered accountants, on the merger of their firm.

Brent Bowman & Partners, with Thomson McLintock and Company, has been made a non-executive director of the Value gas-appliance company.

Mr Richard Hill is now marketing director; Mr Marvyn Robinson, technical director; Mr Ian

GRANADA GROUP

Results for 28 weeks ended 11 April 1981 (unaudited)

	1981 £000	1980 £000	52 weeks ended 27 September 1980 £000
Turnover	190,953	168,705	331,082
Trading surplus before charging:	50,154	46,686	91,678
Depreciation—Rental Assets	18,821	17,644	35,180
—Other Assets	4,418	3,886	8,429
Interest	2,473	2,257	4,570
	25,712	23,787	48,179
Trading profit before Employee Share Scheme, Taxation and Minority Interests (note 2)	24,442	22,899	43,499
Employee Share Scheme (note 3)	—	—	1,013
	24,442	22,899	42,486
Taxation (note 4)	13,511	12,269	21,973
Profit after Taxation	10,931	10,630	20,513
Minority Interests:	162	126	307
	10,769	10,504	20,206
Earnings per share (note 5)	6.52p	6.73p	12.94p

- These results are prepared under the historical cost convention.
- Profits before taxation in the first 28 weeks were 6.7% above those for the same period last year. If trading continues as at present the improvement over last year will be rather greater for the year as a whole.
- The amount that may be allocated to the Employee Share Scheme will be dealt with by the Board when the results for the financial year are known.
- The taxation charge of £13,511,000 is after full provision for deferred taxation on UK Rental and Television profits.
- Earnings per share 6.52p (1980—6.73p) is based on earnings of £10,769,000 (1980—£10,504,000) and on 165,213,274 Ordinary and 'A' Ordinary shares in issue at 11 April 1981 (1980—156,160,675).
- The movement in the exchange rate of Sterling in the 28 weeks ended 11 April 1981 results in an unrealised credit of £844,000 (1980—£1,056,000). Such adjustment will be dealt with in the Annual Accounts.
- An interim dividend of 1.75p per share which with the related tax credit equals 10.0% (1980—9.05%), an increase of 10.5% and amounting to £2,891,000 (1980—£2,474,000) will be paid on 1 October 1981 to shareholders on the register at 4 September 1981.

Alex Bernstein, Chairman
1 July 1981



GRANADA GROUP LIMITED 36 Golden Square London W1R 4AH

Chamberlin & Hill Limited

Year ended 31st March	1981 £000	1980 £000
Turnover	9,187	10,570
Profit before tax	654	1,018
Earnings per share	17.67p	16.77p
Dividends per share	2.75p	2.6p

In view of the extremely difficult trading conditions the results must be regarded as very satisfactory and, as an expression of confidence, the Directors recommend an increase in the final dividend to 1.65p (1.5p).

Demand on the foundries has averaged 55-60% since last July. The engineering subsidiaries also worked below capacity at times but they fared considerably better, contributing a greater proportion of group turnover and profits.

There has been some improvement since the end of the year in the level of orders for the foundries, but there are, as yet, no signs of a return to full-time working. The position in the subsidiary companies remains satisfactory and plans to increase the market penetration of their products are well advanced.

J. R. Eades, Chairman

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Pyrrhic victory for British Sugar

British Sugar Corporation may have won its cliff-hanging battle for independence by a whisker but the outcome of this year-long struggle is hardly satisfactory for anyone concerned. S & W Berisford is left holding a huge chunk of BSC equity through which it can have little hope of influencing the Corporation. BSC's management may be restrained by the knowledge that two-fifths of its equity is in hostile hands, the British Government could be in a cleft stick over its plans to sell its 24 per cent holding, and much-needed reorganization of the sugar industry seems as far away as ever.

Meanwhile, Schroder Wagg which loyally stumped up £7m to support its client is left nervously eyeing the BSC price which fell to 33p last night, compared with the 35p it paid for its shares.

Having paid around £3 for its shares, Berisford is unlikely to flood the market with equity but its threat to hold on with view to bidding again in a year could make any placing of the Government's stake a critical issue. Perhaps Berisford should accept defeat gracefully and arrange a placing of its own holdings with institutions, something Schroder argues could be done without upsetting the price.

Sterling Renewed pressure

Dollar interest rates stubbornly refuse to lie down and yesterday afternoon the Federal Funds rate in New York once again popped up above the 21 per cent level. True, it was a make-up day for United States banks, but there was no doubt that the general firmness in dollar rates made it another good day for the United States currency. On the receiving end, of course, was sterling, which is generally out of favour anyway as the downward pressure on world oil prices continues.

The point of real interest now for foreign exchange markets is how the United Kingdom authorities will react if the dollar continues to stay in demand. The Government's avowed policy is, of course, not to intervene in foreign exchange markets in pursuit of an exchange rate target. Certainly, there was no serious intervention to try and hold the pound above the \$2 level. What the market now wants to see is whether there will be a more active attempt to hold the \$1.90 level as the potential cost pressures of a falling pound grow stronger. In early New York trading yesterday sterling started to slip below the \$1.90 level.

Meanwhile, short-term interest rates in the United Kingdom continue to be unaffected by the pull of dollar rates. The impact of the civil service dispute on tax payments is keeping liquidity in good supply and, as Greenwells point out in their latest Monetary Bulletin (generally in favour of the proposed monetary control changes) the authorities show little sign of yielding their discretion in the setting of short-term rates, whatever they may say to the contrary.

In the gilt market, however, rates are far more susceptible to United States rates and the performance of sterling. All of which is encouraging the market to speculate that the next tranche of Government funding will be through a further issue of index-linked stock. There is the danger that such an issue, a natural in the circumstances, could be taken as a sign of panic.

Industrial lifeboat Choppy waters

In just two days two well-known companies, Richards and Wallington and yesterday, Norvic, have had to call in the receiver following withdrawal of the bankers' support which had kept them going since news of their acute financial difficulties first surfaced a few months ago. It is early days yet, but it does at least raise the spectre of the rush of company failures which the pessimists were predicting more than a year ago.

It would also be premature to suggest that the clearing banks are rowing their industrial lifeboat back in. If there has been

any change of heart, it probably lies in their perception of where the economy is heading. Bankers could reasonably hope a year ago to support companies with stretched balance sheets for perhaps a year, but no longer. It is now looking so that for many manufacturing companies the worst trading period in their history is being followed by an equally tough time. Last week, for example, Vickers, a fairly representative engineering group, said that the upturn in its orders that it had seen only three months ago had evaporated. For many other groups the problem of income gearing, a much more fundamental hardship than capital gearing, looks likely to last much longer with no end in sight to high interest rates.

So the banks cannot now rely on an early economic recovery to ensure the safety of their loans and that ultimately appears to have been the reason why the banks would no longer continue sheltering Norvic and Richards and Wallington.

Meanwhile, the seeds have been sown by the Conservative Industry Committee for a new assault on the banks' lending policies. Its study group has been frankly set up to prove where the banks have gone wrong in lending on excessively short terms with a view to shifting the Government this autumn into either discreet pressure or specific measures. Clearly, after their success in pushing through the loan guarantee scheme the small business campaigners and their friends believe they can make significant headway on this front. After all, the banks had fought loan guarantees from the beginning.

The central plank of the group's thinking at this stage is that the banks have failed to understand the needs of industry. As a result, they have effectively restricted the demands of industry which has become used to living in a short-term lending environment. The evidence will make interesting reading and, if the campaign proceeds with anything like the success of the loan guarantee campaign, the banks have a hard and highly political winter ahead of them.

Trident Television Acceptable solution

Given the present poor outlook for television contractors, Trident could scarcely have had a worse background for selling off majority stakes in Yorkshire and Tyne Tees television, or for resolving the problem of reaching an arrangement which will satisfy both Trident shareholders and prove attractive enough to encourage new investors.

In the event, Trident has come up with a deal with which its own shareholders—having suffered the blow of seeing the franchises lost—can be reasonably happy. The sale of the two companies and repayment of inter-company debt will yield £11.2m—not all immediately—against which can be set the cost of Trident's £3.1m equity investment in the two new holding companies. Adjusting last September's balance sheet for the divestment shows a £3.3m boost to net worth to £30.5m—equal to 62p a share—including £10.5m of cash and short term deposits.

Trident also receives rental payments on technical equipment and studios from both the new companies and in the first year this will total £3.5m. Together with the profits on its other remaining activities, such as leisure parks and scenery-making and interest on the cash it has amassed, there seems a fair chance that the present dividend payment will be safe once the franchises disappear at the end of the year.

Down in yesterday to 54p, the shares stand on a yield of 10.5 per cent and below net asset value. The future depends on how Trident now fares in its attempts to diversify into areas such as satellite and cable television and how its film distribution company in the United States—which has yet to make a contribution—progresses. It will also, of course, have its stakes in Yorkshire and Tyne Tees, although whether there will be dividend payments from these in 1982 must remain to be seen. On the whole, though, Trident seems to have extracted itself reasonably well and perhaps there will be more news at the extraordinary meeting later this month on the group's future plans.

One of the City's fiercest, longest and most expensive bid battles ended a decisive phase yesterday when S & W Berisford, the fast growing commodity traders, failed to gain control of British Sugar Corporation, the country's only refiner of best sugar. It had bid £204m in April.

As the smoke of battle cleared, it revealed considerable confusion. The outcome, with Berisford 2 per cent short of the 42.6 per cent it needed to succeed, leaves many questions unanswered.

The immediate question is whether Berisford will sell all or part of its stake. If it does not sell, how will Berisford choose to wield what its finance director, Mr Gordon Strickland, described as a "dominant influence"?

In the longer term there is possibility under Takeover Panel rules, that Berisford will return with another offer in a year. During that interval, however, there will be plenty of time for reflection. The reorganization of the British sugar industry, which a successful bid implied, has been postponed.

As the loser for the moment at least, Berisford is faced with the greatest difficulties. It has been interested in British Sugar for the better part of a decade. Acquiring a big manufacturing business in an industry complementary to Berisford's trading activity—Berisford is Britain's and possibly the world's biggest sugar trader—was a vital step in its plans to diversify away from the increasingly volatile commodity world.

But the history of the bid battle suggests that British Sugar and Berisford perhaps had less in common than appears from their mutual interest in sugar. Berisford is headed by Mr Ephraim Margulies who is widely regarded in the City as a commodity trader of genius. Largely under his direction, Berisford's pre-tax profits grew from £2.74m in 1971 to £36.1m in 1980.

British Sugar's record has been less spectacular. Its pre-tax profits rose from £5.89m to £34.2m over the same period. But the rate of profits growth has accelerated noticeably over the last five years, partly because of the hard-nosed direction given by Mr John Beckett, the company's chief executive.

The contrast between Mr Margulies, the archetypal trader, and Mr Beckett, very much the modern corporate manager, gave the battle its particular character—almost a clash of cultures. It also raised one of the critical issues: is Berisford capable of running successfully a manufacturing business?

This question was given extra piquancy by Mr Beckett's determination to develop British Sugar's marketing, a previously neglected area, as well as

A bitter lesson for Berisford



Mr John Beckett, British Sugar's chief executive, tried to eliminate the sugar market's middle-men.

the manufacturing. While £150m has been spent on modernizing the corporation's refineries—a programme which included four factory closures—British Sugar has tried to eliminate some of the sugar market's middle-men. As a result, some sugar merchants have lodged a complaint with European Commission alleging abuse of market power.

British Sugar's modernization, assisted by this year's increase in EEC sugar prices, enabled the corporation to forecast 1981 profits of £45m. This was a rising exchange rate, which reinforces the general squeeze on costs.

The alternative approach, devaluation, goes more for higher output by making United Kingdom goods more price-competitive than overseas goods in both export and domestic markets. Most advocates of devaluation policies now accept, however, that devaluation loses its effectiveness without a stringent domestic policy to prevent compensatory wage increases.

Economic notebook

Why living standards will continue to fall

many companies will continue to find the going tough and will need to improve their competitiveness further.

What the Bank says is this: to sustain the improved competitiveness needed to protect living standards over the longer term one must ensure that unit costs do not rise more slowly than those of our competitors or, in other words, that our productivity grows faster than theirs.

You can approach increased productivity from two ends. You can either put the emphasis on increasing output, or you place it rather more heavily on cost-cutting. Clearly, the former is the more desirable route since increased output is synonymous with improving living standards, at least as measured economically.

But it is, of course, easier said than done. The traditional way of setting out to accelerate productivity in national terms is through an official stimulus to the economy. But demand management in this sense is a discredited policy now on the grounds that it produces counter-productive inflationary consequences.

The other conventional approach is from the cost end. This means action to keep labour costs growing much in line with those elsewhere. To this end, the Government has set monetary targets with a view to letting the labour market see the amount of additional money it considers appropriate to create in any one year.

There is, of course, a further line of approach to competitiveness problems. That is through exchange rate policy. While the present government remains largely agnostic when it comes to an active exchange rate policy, it is clear that exchange rate movements, induced by monetary policy, do in fact play some part in its strategy. In terms of a counter-inflationary policy that means a rising exchange rate, which reinforces the general squeeze on costs.

Where does all this leave us? There are a number of theoretical options, though none, at least in a United Kingdom context, which can be realistically pursued without short-term pressures on living standards.

In practice, however, we are left with a policy of progressive disinflation of the money supply with the aim of steadily reducing back the rate of increase in nominal costs. There is no room for applied stimulation to throughput, and little sign of the supply-side miracle that would lead to self-generated increases.

In other words, cost containment must continue to bear the brunt, and living standards will fall accordingly if the policy is applied effectively. Is it possible, then, to estimate by how much living standards may fall?

When looking at what needs to be done to United Kingdom competitiveness, one can only talk in general terms, and measures of competitiveness are in any case far from precise. What should be an important point in the United Kingdom's favour, however, is that a significant improvement in competitiveness may not need the kind of cutback in living standards that might be needed in a similar situation in another country.

That is because there are two very different strands to the deterioration of competitiveness in Britain. One stems from the above average rate of inflation; the other has to do with North Sea oil.

To correct the deterioration stemming from the first definitely begs a cutback in living standards. The latter is more complex, but it is clearly nonsense to argue that because we have North Sea oil there should be no benefit to living standards, unless, that is, the economic adjustment to North Sea oil is so badly handled that it leads to an unnecessary loss of large sectors of the economy along the way.

What was clear under a floating exchange rate regime was that the advent of North Sea oil would tend to raise the exchange rate. That in turn meant that internationally competing non-oil industries would have to contain their nominal costs even more rigorously than before if they were to maintain their competitiveness. But even if that meant static, or possibly falling, nominal levels of pay, it need not have meant any fall in real living standards. Offsetting benefits would have come through the redistribution of North Sea tax revenue and lower import prices.

That said, the present situation is not helped by the fact that most of the benefit of the exchange rate appreciation on living standards has already been restrained without any adequate restraint on nominal incomes.

As it is, it looks as if the Government is simply going to plod on with its gradualist policies. Drawing up its spending programmes in cash terms for next year may help it to underwrite to those working in the public sector the trade-off between further wage increases and the score for fresh investment and greater employment opportunities. Private sector employees are trying to edge their way towards "productivity only" pay awards in many cases. This may help, but will not be enough.

The big gamble, of course, would be a two-year pay freeze, slashed short-term interest rates (leading to a lower exchange rate) and the redistribution of debt interest savings through lower taxes or higher public sector investment.

It would acknowledge the need for a sharp cut in living standards, leave time to consider the future of pay bargaining, stand the chance of reducing unemployment significantly, and, last but not least, offer the best chance of attaining the targets of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

John Whitmore

Business Diary: Art for mart's sake

The Contemporary Art Society, whose annual general meeting was held in the City last night, is the beneficiary of a policy that might be described as art for mart's sake.

The society is a charity, which acquires the work of living artists for gift or loan to public galleries, and Nancy Balfour, the chairman (below, yesterday, with a Nicholas Pope sculpture she owns) tell me that unlike most other charities they have never had it so good. Miss Balfour says it is all due to interest in the society being shown by business firms, particularly since the corporate membership scheme was brought in three years ago.

This entitles firms to advice on buying, borrowing or commissioning pictures by living artists. Some firms, however, turn over a whole buying programme to the society.

The society is half way through just such a programme

The phrase "private eye" is said to have originated from the eye motif on this advertisement (right) for the first office of the Pinkerton detective agency which opened in Chicago in 1850. Pinkerton's, the holder of a thousand commercial secrets, is now setting up its first office outside North America.

One commercial secret Pinkerton's chief, Tony Purbrick, did not have last night, however, was whether British Telecom is going to lay on the phone in time for the opening of the new office on Monday.

Purbrick is to speak to the British Telecom this morning to confirm whether Pinkerton's is in business or not. If the answer is no, then so far as Britain is concerned the world's largest private security guard and investigator will have to remain even more inscrutable than normal.

If all this sounds very British and un-American, then it would not be entirely out of keeping. The founder of the company, Allan Pinkerton was born in Glasgow 162 years ago. Purbrick, the managing director of Pinkerton UK, is a former British policeman, who joined Pinkerton's 13 years ago, and his manager, Denis Myers was also born here.

Purbrick told me yesterday: "We're not moving here because of the American banks and oil



companies. It's going to be a British operation, operating in the British market, and we'll be hiring British staff". Other European offices may be opened.

One area of work that is growing, both in the United States and here, he says, is executive protection.

"I don't mean providing bodyguards for businessmen, so much as devising a complete safety programme for him and his whole family, although that could involve bodyguards".

One area of work that is not growing for Pinkerton's at any rate, is that staple of pulp fiction: "Our founder wrote out some rules in his own hand," said Purbrick, "no personal, no divorce work. Our investigators stick to things like theft, surveillance, and insurance claims".

and civil servants promised during its election campaign. In order to give them the legally necessary space in which to work the calculation is that they will need something in the region of 4 million square meters of extra office space—which is something like five times the amount contained in the huge new complex of La Defense on the western outskirts of Paris.

Finding all that space in the Paris area would not be easy, but then the new government is firmly committed to a policy of decentralization, so the chances are that the office property market throughout France will be opening up.

Wootton reckons that property developers—not to mention in-

ternational consultants—can feel pretty cheerful about the immediate future in socialist France.

Bond aid?

I hear that Christopher Tugendhat, the former Tory MP and now EEC Budget Commissioner, is letting it be known that he is prepared to take the present Tory Government to the European Court.

Talks are going on between EEC and United Kingdom officials about the system whereby the British Chancellor, alone among his European opposite numbers, expects excise duty to be paid on spirits and imported wines the moment they leave bond for the shops.

This means importers here have to finance payments of up to £18m in the pre-Christmas ordering rush, yet wait up until three months to get their money back from wholesalers and the shops.

The Tories supported a deferred payment plan when in Opposition, but are not so keen on it now. Tugendhat is saying that if the talks fail he will get tough.

An 800-page Chinese-English telephone directory of more than 20,000 frequently-used telephone numbers in China is to go on sale on the mainland and in Hong Kong. The 1981 China Telephone Directory, the first such comprehensive directory ever to be published in China, has been compiled by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. It will give over 20,000 numbers in about 40 large cities, but there will be little chance of winning the wrong number—no private numbers will be listed.

Ross Davies

BPB Industries Ltd

Plaster, plasterboard and other building materials

Paper, paperboard and packaging products

- Profit of £42 million in difficult trading conditions — much benefit from higher productivity and energy savings
- Modernisation and cost-saving capital expenditure continues
- Reasonable hope for maintained profits in 1981/82 and longer term outlook remains excellent

F. Geoffrey Flood Chairman

	1981	1980
	£ million	£ million
Sales	361	341
Profit before tax	42	47
Attributable profit (after tax)	30	34
Earnings per share	P 32.4	P 37.6
Dividends per share (including tax credit)	12.857	12.857

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Ferguson House, 15/17 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JE.

CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: The Standards Debate (part two).
9.47 For Schools, Colleges: Science (water); 10.10 Merry-go-round; 10.55 Near and Far: Grasslands.
11.25 Cricket: The Second Test. First day's play in the England v Australia match, from Lord's. The action switches to BBC 2 at 2.35 and there are highlights, also on BBC 2, tonight at 11.30.
1.30 Chalk & Cheese: For the tiny tots; 1.45 News and weather forecast.
1.55 Wimbledon 81: The semi-finals of the Men's Singles in the Lawn Tennis Championships. Further coverage on BBC 1 at 2.35. Coverage switches to BBC 2 at 2.35, and there are highlights tonight, also on BBC 2 at 10.00 pm.
4.20 Play School: Alma Marshak, Whitehead and Peter Dinklage read by Floella Benjamin and Brian Cant. Also on BBC 2 at 11.00 am 4.45 Scooby Doo:

cartoon. What a Night for a Knight.
5.05 John Craven's Newsround: the news interpreted for the younger viewer.
5.10 We are the Champions: New series begins. Schools compete on the sports field and in the swimming baths. Today: the first heat Northern Ireland Larnie High School take on St Congall's High School, Larnie, and Downshire School, Carrickfergus.
5.40 News: with Peter Woods.
5.55 Regional news magazines.
6.20 Wimbledon 81: Live coverage continues of the semi-finals of the Men's Singles.
7.25 Top of the Pops: Dave Lee Travis is the presenter. The performers include Legs and Co.
7.50 The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy: New hazards for Arthur Dent, Ford Prefect, Trillian and Zaphod Beeblebrox as they touch down on the legendary planet of Magrathea. They find themselves in the

restaurant at the end of the Universe (r).
8.30 Rings on Their Fingers: Domestic comedy series, with Diana Keen and Martin Jarvis as the newly-wed couple. The husband becomes involved in an unfortunate sequence of events involving a redhead, a brunette, three blondes and a ballpoint pen (r).
9.00 News with Richard Baker.
9.25 The Good Old Days: First in a new series of old-time variety shows, from the City Varieties Theatre, Leeds. Roy Hudd leads tonight's opening band. Other artists include the American soprano Lorna Dallas, the Irish-American tenor Robert White, Richard Sugden, the dance duo Bill Drysdale and Christine Cartwright, and the northern comedian Tom Mennard. The chairman, as always, is Leonard Sachs.
10.15 André Previn and Friends: New series begins. Filmed in Pittsburgh. The guests are the violinist Itzhak Perlman, the

drummer Shelley Manne, the bass player Red Mitchell, and the guitarist player Jim Hall. Tonight, it's all jazz. The classical music is yet to come.
10.55 Anatomy of a Volcano: First of four Horizon programmes describing volcanic activity from BBC 2 to BBC 1. The events that led up to the eruption of Mount St Helens in the north-western United States in the spring of 1980 (see Personal Choice).
11.50 News headlines. And weather forecast.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS—BBC CYMRU: 11.25-11.30 am: 11.30-11.35 am: 11.35-11.40 am: 11.40-11.45 am: 11.45-11.50 am: 11.50-11.55 am: 11.55-12.00 pm: 12.00-12.05 pm: 12.05-12.10 pm: 12.10-12.15 pm: 12.15-12.20 pm: 12.20-12.25 pm: 12.25-12.30 pm: 12.30-12.35 pm: 12.35-12.40 pm: 12.40-12.45 pm: 12.45-12.50 pm: 12.50-12.55 pm: 12.55-1.00 pm: 1.00-1.05 pm: 1.05-1.10 pm: 1.10-1.15 pm: 1.15-1.20 pm: 1.20-1.25 pm: 1.25-1.30 pm: 1.30-1.35 pm: 1.35-1.40 pm: 1.40-1.45 pm: 1.45-1.50 pm: 1.50-1.55 pm: 1.55-2.00 pm: 2.00-2.05 pm: 2.05-2.10 pm: 2.10-2.15 pm: 2.15-2.20 pm: 2.20-2.25 pm: 2.25-2.30 pm: 2.30-2.35 pm: 2.35-2.40 pm: 2.40-2.45 pm: 2.45-2.50 pm: 2.50-2.55 pm: 2.55-3.00 pm: 3.00-3.05 pm: 3.05-3.10 pm: 3.10-3.15 pm: 3.15-3.20 pm: 3.20-3.25 pm: 3.25-3.30 pm: 3.30-3.35 pm: 3.35-3.40 pm: 3.40-3.45 pm: 3.45-3.50 pm: 3.50-3.55 pm: 3.55-4.00 pm: 4.00-4.05 pm: 4.05-4.10 pm: 4.10-4.15 pm: 4.15-4.20 pm: 4.20-4.25 pm: 4.25-4.30 pm: 4.30-4.35 pm: 4.35-4.40 pm: 4.40-4.45 pm: 4.45-4.50 pm: 4.50-4.55 pm: 4.55-5.00 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